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Palestinian Affairs

'Text' of 'Arafat's Islamabad Address Cited

JN2506184789 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1605 GMT 25 Jun 89

["Text" of speech by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at Pakistani National Assembly in Islamabad on 24 June—read by announcer]

[Text] Your Excellency Brother Ghulam Ishaq Khan, president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan; Your Excellency Sister Benazir Bhutto, prime minister of Pakistan; Your Excellency the Speaker of the National Assembly; members of the Assembly; cabinet members; members of the diplomatic corps; brothers and sisters, may God's peace and blessings be upon you.

It is a great honor for me to stand today among you, the representatives of a fraternal people with whom we are tied with bonds of love, brotherhood, and the joint destiny that unites us within the framework of our Islamic nation and religion—relations fostered by the late martyr of Pakistan, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto; established by the founder of Pakistan, Muhammad Ali Jinnah; and which have been strengthened through joint, continuous coordination in all fields and domains. In the name of our Palestinian people, the State of Palestine, the PLO, and in my own name, I am pleased to express to all of you and through you to the fraternal people of Pakistan our profound gratitude and appreciation for the principled and firm support and backing rendered by the Pakistani president, government, National Assembly, parties, and people to our peoples' sacred struggle to liberate the al-Aqsa Mosque of Jerusalem and to restore our people's national inalienable rights, including their right to return, to exercise self-determination, and to establish their independent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

I take this opportunity to congratulate you on my people's behalf for the great confidence your people have placed in you in the democratic election process. We congratulate you for this trust, and we congratulate your people for electing you. Allow me to salute from this rostrum the souls of the Pakistani martyrs who participated with us in the battles of jihad to liberate our holy Jerusalem in order to hoist the flag of our nation over the holy city.

Brothers and Sisters: You are continually following the Palestinian developments and the news of our people's blessed intifadah [uprising], which is about to complete its 19th month. This intifadah aims to end the Israeli occupation and establish the Palestinian people's independent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital. Our people waged this intifadah against the Israeli occupation and its practices, especially the iron-fist policy that the Zionist occupation authorities are imposing on them. You are certainly aware that through this policy, which was condemned by the international community, Israel is committing the most grotesque crimes, such as the use of firearms and rubber, plastic, and dumdum bullets, as well as internationally banned gas bombs. Israel is killing children and aborting pregnant women in addition to detaining people, imposing collective punishment, deporting people from their homeland, and imposing sieges on entire villages, towns, and camps for many days. Israel has also been closing schools and universities for a 2d consecutive year in implementing the policy of keeping our people ignorant. Israel is violating the sanctity of places of worship, both Islamic and Christain. So far, more than 800 have been martyred in the intifadah and 40,000 wounded, 6,000 of whom are maimed. Moreover, more than 50,000 have been detained in prisons and Nazi concentration camps. The losses sustained by our people in the intifadah have reached more than $2 billion in terms of their industry, jobs, tourism, and trade, according to official international and local estimates.

You must be aware that Israel, the occupying authority, would not have been able to pursue this iron-fist policy and to use its arrogant power without the U.S. Administration's unlimited support on all levels. The latest form of this support has been to paralyze the international will at the UN Security Council by using the veto and preventing the condemnation of the Zionist crimes against our people.

Brothers and sisters: Despite all this, our people, out of their love for peace and genuine desire to achieve it, adopted an important peace initiative during the 19th session of the Palestine National Council, which was held in Algiers in November 1988. The initiative aimed at bringing about a just peace. I emphasized this initiative in my address to the UN General Assembly in Geneva in December 1988. As you know, this initiative is based on convening an international conference for peace in the Middle East under the supervision of the United Nations and with the participation of the five permanent member states of the Security Council and all parties to the conflict, including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, on an equal footing with all the other parties. We expressed our readiness to reach a negotiated settlement that terminates Israel's occupation of our territories and establishes our independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

Based on the Palestinian peace initiative, the U.S. Administration agreed to open a substantial dialogue with the PLO. So far, three rounds of important talks have been held. We hope the U.S. Administration will push forward the peace process with greater speed, not through providing absolute support for the so-called election plan in the occupied territories but through exerting rapid efforts to convene the international peace conference.

You are elected parliamentarians. Is it possible to hold elections under the shadow of occupation and under the guns of occupation soldiers? Is holding elections a means or an end in itself? Can there possibly be elections

without freedom, democracy, and the right to self-determination? There are so many questions that must be answered. We accept the elections on the conditions that they be held under the supervision of the United Nations and after the Israeli withdrawal. The elections should also be part of a comprehensive peace plan aimed at achieving peace, not improving the face of the occupation and entrenching it on the land of the State of Palestine. We accept the application of the Namibian example that was acknowledged and approved by the U.S. Administration.

Sisters and brothers: Before ending my address to you today, I must stress to you that our Palestinian people support the Soviet Government's decision on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. They also strongly support efforts aimed at reaching a negotiated peaceful settlement for the situation in Afghanistan so that the fraternal people of Afghanistan can achieve the national reconciliation that enables them to maintain their unity and territorial integrity and helps them preserve the security and stability of their country and the region.

This position of ours is well known to all parties. We exchanged views about it with your respected government and with dear sister Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. I also discussed it with His Excellency President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and with the parties to the conflict. In this respect, we have our own initiative, which we presented to all Afghan parties. We have been honest in our presentation of this initiative with a view to avoiding bloodshed, serving the interests of Afghanistan and its people, and preventing Afghanistan from turning into another Lebanon in the body of the nation.

Stemming from our desire to achieve just peace and remove the suffering of peoples, we also made a constructive contribution with our brothers in the Nonaligned Movement to lay the sound foundations for a negotiated settlement among the Cambodian parties. We support dialogue between these parties and back them in their endeavor to find the appropriate solutions to this issue, which resulted in pain and suffering for the friendly people of Cambodia. We highly appreciate the outcome of the common efforts so far achieved.

We also support the people of Namibia in their just struggle to achieve their independence. We wish them success in accomplishing this noble goal. We also warmly support the struggle of the people of South Africa to end apartheid in the country and regain their freedom.

Brothers and sisters: Before signing off, I stress to you that our Palestinian people will continue their sacred jihad and just struggle, regardless of the sacrifices and the conspiracies, which will only strengthen their determination and insistence on the continuation of their sacred struggle to raise the banners of our nation high over our holy Jerusalem. The support provided to the just struggle of our people by our Islamic nation and all liberals and honest men in the world increases our confidence in the inevitability of victory. Victory is granted only by God. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: And to enter your temple as they had entered it before and to visit with destruction all that fell into their power. [Koranic verses] I thank you, and wish you success in realizing the national goals of the fraternal people of Pakistan. Peace be upon you.

PLO Reportedly Moving to Accepting Elections

TA2306135389 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 23 Jun 89 pp 1, 11

[Text] London—Reliably informed West European sources have revealed that diplomatic reports coming from Washington, Moscow, Cairo, and Tunis affirm that the PLO leadership, represented by Yasir 'Arafat, is moving step by step and in a practical manner toward accepting elections in the West Bank and Gaza, and that the various Arab and international contacts the PLO is currently conducting aim at ensuring the maximum international guarantees so that these elections will contribute to resolving the Palestinian problem in a just and comprehensive manner and ensure the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people.

These West European sources noted that the Palestinian leadership recently informed several prominent international parties—including the U.S. Administration, the Soviet leadership, and some West European governments—that it does not want to be responsible for losing any chance for achieving peace and ensuring the demands and rights of the Palestinian people, and that it is ready to announce its official consent to hold elections in the West Bank and Gaza, settle the Palestinian problem, and resolve the future of the West Bank and Gaza in two stages—the first transitional and the second permanent—after the PLO obtains a number of international guarantees. Some of these guarantees would be related to the procedure of the elections while others would concern the core of the problem: linking these elections with a comprehensive and clear peace process.

These sources said that the Palestinian leadership, through its various Arab and international contacts, is striving to obtain three kinds of international guarantees before giving its public and official consent to elections in the West Bank and Gaza:

1. The primary and basic aim of the Palestinian leadership is to obtain official U.S.-Soviet guarantees in writing that would commit the two superpowers to work toward resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land in return for peace, and also on the basis of ensuring the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people. These guarantees can take the form of a joint U.S.-Soviet statement or

a proclamation of joint principles that define the foundations of a comprehensive peaceful settlement, so that the elections or the autonomy stage would be an indivisible part of a comprehensive, peaceful settlement process.

2. If the United States and the Soviet Union do not reach agreement on such a joint peaceful formula, the Palestinian leadership will try to obtain U.S. guarantees in writing that affirm a number of basic principles, most important of which is that the peace process will not stop at holding the elections and applying autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza, but will continue until the Palestinian problem is resolved in a just and comprehensive manner that would ensure the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights.

3. In addition to this, the Palestinian leadership wants the European community, particularly France and Britain, to participate in one form or another in any new peace process and to give the required guarantees so that the settlement will not stop at the autonomy stage in the West Bank and Gaza and, consequently, so that this settlement will not be partial.

These West European sources affirmed that the ongoing contacts between the Palestinian leadership on one hand and the U.S. Administration, the Soviet leadership, and the French Government on the other aim particularly at providing these guarantees. These sources acknowledged that the Palestinian leadership is particularly concentrating its efforts on obtaining official American guarantees.

This is the main reason why the PLO has posed a number of questions to the U.S. Administration in which it calls on the administration to define its positions in writing regarding some issues related to the elections in the West Bank and Gaza and the interlocking of these elections to the process of a final comprehensive settlement of the occupied territories' status and of the Palestinian problem.

Information available to the knowledgeable West European sources affirms that the Palestinian leadership asked for two kinds of U.S. guarantees: one pertaining to procedural matters for holding elections and the other pertaining to the overall peace process.

What concerns the Palestinian leadership regarding procedural matters is ensuring that these elections are carried out from beginning to end; namely, from the stage of nominations, campaigning, and presentation of the candidates' programs to the polling stage and announcement of results. The Palestinian leadership wants this election process to be held in its entirety in a climate of freedom devoid of any direct or indirect Israeli pressures or threats.

With regard to procedural matters, the Palestinian leadership is ready to display a great deal of flexibility about some issues for the sake of maintaining complete freedom for holding these elections. For example, the Palestinian leadership is ready to accept the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the places and locations in which voting takes place and not insist on total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and the placement of these territories under international supervision before the elections.

The Palestinian leadership is prepared to give up its demand that the United Nations itself supervise the elections process and is ready to accept American or U.S.-European supervision comprised of representatives, observers, and newsmen.

The Palestinian leadership is also prepared to demonstrate flexibility on other matters regarding the arrangement of elections, but in return it insists on the East Jerusalem Palestinians' participation in these elections. It also insists that the Israeli authorities adopt a series of practical and tangible steps that would contribute to the creation of a peaceful and suitable environment for holding these elections, and calls for an end to all Israeli practices against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

On fundamental matters, the Palestinian leadership asked the Bush administration to provide U.S. guarantees for 2 basic issues:

—To guarantee that the elections and the autonomy stage are an indivisible part of a comprehensive and overall peace process based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as well as the principle of land in return for peace, the aim of which is to ensure the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights and resolve the Palestinian problem in its various aspects.

—To guarantee the PLO's direct or indirect participation in the various stages of a settlement and negotiations.

Information available to the knowledgeable West European sources indicates that so far the PLO leadership has not received all the necessary U.S. guarantees that it asked for, but contacts are continuing between the Palestinian leadership and the United States, as well as among the Palestinian leadership, the Soviet leadership, France, Britain, and Egypt for providing the appropriate international cover to facilitate the election process in the West Bank and Gaza.

PLO Spokesman on Kidnapping of U.S. Citizen

JN2406192989 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1848 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] Brother Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman, official spokesman for the PLO, has stated that the PLO vehemently denounces and condemns the kidnapping of U.S. citizen

Chris George, director general of the Community Development Fund, that the PLO is not remotely associated with this kidnapping, and that it will spare no effort to release the kidnapped U.S. national.

Brother Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman praised the humanitarian work that has been carried out by Chris George, the friend of the Palestinian people, who came to alleviate the tribulations our people are experiencing as a result of the barbaric repression that the Zionist forces of occupation are carrying out.

U.S. national Chris George, who was kidnapped in the Gaza Strip the day before yesterday, was released yesterday. An official in charge of relief work in the United Nations said that Chris George is in good shape.

Uprising Note to Perez de Cuellar Reported

JN2406190689 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Jun 89

["Text" of "urgent memorandum sent by the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah (uprising) in the State of Palestine" to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar; date, place not given]

[Text] Mr UN Secretary General:

The military rule and Israeli Government authorities are continuing their oppressive policy against our unarmed people's masses, thus ignoring all international norms and conventions and violating international conventions pertaining to the treatment of residents of areas under occupation included in the fourth Geneva convention of 1949.

In spite of the fact that there are hundreds of martyrs, thousands of wounded, and tens of thousands of people detained in inhumane conditions; despite the use of the stultification policy through the renewed closure of schools and universities and depriving our students of their natural right to education for 2 years; and despite the continued use of the policy of deportation from the homeland's soil which the whole world, world public opinion, and the various international organizations—foremost of which is the United Nations—have declared their condemnation and rejection of, Israel continues to ignore the stands of the whole world and 13 of our people's sons are subjected to an unjust resolution to deport them from their homeland's soil.

The Unified National Leadership, on behalf of our people's masses in the State of Palestine, urges you to personally intervene to abolish these resolutions and stop the policy of deportation as a whole. It also urges the UN Security Council members to intervene decisively to force the occupying authorities to abide by the UN resolutions and to abrogate the deportation resolutions. It also urges them to exert pressures in order to open the schools and universities and allow our people's sons to live in freedom on their homeland's soil like all peace-loving peoples of the world.

We appreciate your role in supporting our people and all peoples who fight for freedom and independence.

Signed: The Unified National Leadership; the State of Palestine

Algeria

Syria's Al-Shar' Arrives With Message 23 Jun

JN2306180089 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] [Syrian] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has arrived in Algiers on a working visit to Algeria. Upon arrival, Al-Shar' said: I am carrying a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to President Chadli Bendjedid on the current situation in the region and the Lebanese arena in particular.

Meets President Bendjedid

LD2406163689 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid received at the Presidency this morning Mr Faruq al-Shar', the Syrian foreign minister. After his meeting with his excellency the president, our colleague Hassiba Kechroud asked the Syrian minister: Your Excellency Minister, you were received a few moments ago by the president of the Republic; can you tell us what you discussed?

[Begin Al-Shar' recording] I conveyed to his excellency the president of the republic a message from his brother, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, relating to the continuation of contacts and consultations between the two sister countries, Syria and Algeria, and also the continuation of the discussions held in Oran and Tripoli—prior to the Casablanca summit—by the heads of the four states [Algeria, Syria, Libya, and Tunisia]. The message also dealt with the situation in Lebanon, with regard to both the security and political aspects. We shared the same viewpoints on the importance of helping the Lebanese warring factions to put an end to the in-fighting and embark on a political solution in implementation of the Casablanca summit resolution.

Naturally, the security aspect should not be an obstacle to the efforts for a political solution. However, there is still a security obstacle: The need to lift the siege, open the crossing-points and search the ships to stop weapons reaching all Lebanese factions so that the cease-fire is not considered a temporary truce to be followed by a resumption of the fighting, because such events would seriously jeopardize the political solution. [end recording]

Egypt

Syrian Plane Lands in Cairo After 12-Year Break

NC2406132189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1251 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 24 Jun (MENA)—A Syrian Airlines plane from Damascus landed at Cairo Airport today. This was the first such flight after a suspension of flights between the two countries that lasted approximately 12 years.

On board the plane were the Egyptian Bar Association delegation and reporters who attended the 17th congress of the Arab Lawyers Union in Damascus.

There to meet the aircraft, a Jumbo 747 with 306 passengers on board, were Major General 'Ali Ziku, civil aviation director; Major General 'Abd-al-'Aziz Badr, Cairo Airport Authority chief; and senior airport officials.

The body of Egyptian lawyer Muhammad Barakat, who died in Damascus at the age of 48, as well as a Syrian television delegation, arrived on the same flight. [passage omitted]

Soviet Foreign Ministry Official Arrives

NC2506063089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jun (MENA)—Anatoliy Adamishin, deputy Soviet minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Cairo from Paris early this morning on an official visit of several days to Egypt.

The Soviet official will hold talks during this visit with Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, on Egypt's role in the region and the Soviet Union's appreciation of Egypt's African and Arab policies.

The deputy Soviet minister of foreign affairs was received on arrival by Ambassador Mahmud Amin Fathi, head of the East Europe Department at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Cited on Ties With Egypt

JN2306110489 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 21 Jun 89 p 3

[By Musbah Qutub]

[Excerpt] Tripoli—During his meeting with a delegation from the National Progressive Unionist Progressive Grouping, led by Khalid Muhyi-al-Din; and the Labor Party, led by Ahmad Mujahid, last Tuesday [13 June], Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi revealed secrets on the Arab summit and the conditions in the Arab world.

Col al-Qadhdhafi said that the main benchmark for the Jamahiriyah's relations with any country, including Egypt, is that country's stand toward imperialism and Zionism. He asserted that the reopening of Libyan borders was not only made to facilitate the Libyans' entertainment, but to strengthen ties between the two countries in a manner that will support the issue of unity and broaden the possibilities for disposing of U.S. hegemony in the region.

Al-Qadhdhafi said that he informed President Mubarak of the invalidity of western allegations about the so-called Libyan sabotage. Al-Qadhdhafi added that he

asked President Mubarak to contact him if any such event occurs so that he can expose the motives behind it, especially since many sides are interested in sabotaging the improvement in relations between the two countries.

Al-Qadhdhafi said that he agreed with President Mubarak on cooperation between the two countries in all fields. He also said that President Mubarak asked him to turn over the page of differences with Al-Sadat for the sake of the future. He added that Mubarak also asked him to change the Jamahiriyah's diplomatic and information language so that it can earn the friendship of democratic states, groups, and international organizations and foil any Israeli attempt to benefit from such a language.

Al-Qadhdhafi said that he had asserted to Al-Sadat, in the presence of Hafiz al-Asad, that his plan for October [1973] War will end up in opening the Suez Canal and recognizing Israel. He revealed that Libya had proposed a plan for an attack on the eastern front in order to strike at the heart of Israel because no Arab force has done such a thing, but Al-Sadat rejected the plan.

Al-Qadhdhafi asserted that we must not underestimate the consequences of Camp David and that we should at the same time accept the different interpretations in order to get rid of this dangerous Arab dilemma. He asked the Egyptian opposition forces to cooperate with the official trends which seek to limit the Zionist presence in Egypt and subservience to the United States.

The colonel wondered: Cannot those who planted the spy, Eli Cohen [name as published], in the leadership of the Syrian Ba'th Party under the name of Muhammad Amin Thabit after they prepared him in South America plant others among us in order to deliver the full Arab surrender to Israel? He answered: In my opinion, this will continue and it may have happened in big "countries" in the region during the past few years.

Col al-Qadhdhafi said the Arabs are satisfied with accepting small achievements; in other words they retreat too far and then become pleased with regaining a few meters of the land which they relinquished before. This policy has almost paralyzed the Palestinian forces. Al-Qadhdhafi warned against the American-Palestinian dialogue plans, saying these plans are actually intended to transform the PLO from a revolutionary organization to a political one and to pull the carpet from under the feet of the internal Palestinian forces and to contain their great intifadah [uprising].

Al-Qadhdhafi reviewed the situation in Iran, Iraq, the Gulf states, Morocco, Algeria, Mauritania, Somalia, and other Arab countries in light of the principle of hostility or succumbing to U.S. imperialism. He said: The pan-Arab unionist action in many major Arab countries has retreated under the preasure of economic problems; or this is what the negligent say to justify their negligence. Al-Qadhdhafi added: Many Arabs are still fully dependent on the United States to consolidate their authority. They are satisfied from time to time with providing funds for Arab and Palestinian action. He said: Some Arab forces, which used to be "progressive" are resisting progressive and unionist ideas in their own countries with imprisonment and torture.

Al-Qadhdhafi said: The United States and other Western states, falsely using the "human rights" cover, have attacked us to achieve political and economic gains, simply because we proposed, for example, that a lawyer should [be] part of the court staff to facilitate the task of defending the charges without returns. They said that our proposal was a violation of human rights. Why did they not say that their friends in the region do not allow the presence of a court, an association, a trade union, an organization, or a party? Is this not also a violation of rights?

Al-Qadhdhafi called for using the Arab people's power and protests as a tool for political bargaining which permits the political leader to avoid implementing what the Americans want by saying: I wanted to do it, but as you can see the people do not agree. What can I do?!

In conclusion, the Libyan leader affirmed that he was happy when President Mubarak did not refer to the Israelis as cousins, as Anwar al-Sadat used to do. Al-Qadhdhafi concluded: I noticed Mubarak's belief in the unity of the Libyan and Egyptian peoples, and the importance of this unity in the field of Arab liberation from foreign domination. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi Interviewed on Bulgaria, Cyprus

TA2506172189 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1600 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi expressed great concern over the oppression of the Muslim Turkish minority in Bulgaria. Al-Qadhdhafi replied to questions by Turkish Radio and Television correspondent Nuran Milli in Tripoli, the capital of Libya. He said that he sent a representative to Bulgaria to investigate the oppression of the Turks living in that country, adding that Libya cannot stand by without taking action against this problem.

Pointing out that Turkish-Libyan relations are based on the principle of brotherhood, Al-Qadhdhafi remarked that Turkey could play an active role in the solution of the Middle East problem. On the Cyprus question, the Libyan leader said his country is in favor of a neutral state that would unite the two communities on the island on an equal footing regarding democratic rights and duties.

In response to our correspondent's question on the relations between Libya and the United States, Al-Qadhdhafi said: Libya does not have any relations with the United States. They are severed. The Libyan leader also reiterated that his country does not produce nuclear weapons.

Mauritania

Nouadhibou Curfew Lifted; Remains in Nouakchott

AB2506074689 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] The Ministry of Interior, Posts, and Telecommunications informs the public that the curfew was lifted in Nouadhibou yesterday. It remains in force in Nouakchott and runs from midnight to 0600.

Morocco

Syria's Al-Shar' Arrives for Talks 24 Jun

LD2406164389 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] The Syrian foreign minister, Mr Faruq al-Shar', arrived in Morocco this afternoon on a visit to our country during which he will convey a message to His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

The Syrian foreign minister talked about this mission in a statement:

[Begin Al-Shar' recording] First of all, I would like to express my great pleasure in visiting fraternal Morocco a few weeks after the successful Casablanca summit. I have a message from his excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to his brother, His Majesty King Hassan II, related to developments in the Lebanese issue and the fraternal relations between Syria and Morocco. [end recording]

Mr Abdellatif Filali, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, and a number of other officials welcomed Mr Faruq al-Shar' on his arrival at Sale Airport.

Talks in Algeria Reviewed

JN2406192589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Rabat this afternoon carrying a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to King Hassan II. He was received at the Rabat airport by Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali and the Syrian charge d'affaires in Rabat.

Al-Shar' earlier today delivered a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid in the presence of Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh and the Algerian ambassador in Damascus.

Responding to questions from by Algerian television and radio correspondents at the presidential palace, Al-Shar' said: I conveyed to President Chadli Bendjedid a message from his brother President Hafiz al-Asad dealing with continuing contacts and discussions between the two fraternal countries, Syria and Algeria, as well as continuing discussions that took place in Tripoli and Oran before the Casablanca summit.

Al-Shar' added: The message contained an explanation of the situation in Lebanon from its various political and security aspects. The points of view were united on the importance of helping the conflicting Lebanese sides put an end to the fighting and starting with the political solution in implementation of the Casablanca summit resolutions.

Al-Shar' said: No obstacle should stand in the way of this political solution. All Lebanese sides should cooperate to implement the solution so that the cease-fire period is not considered a truce after which one Lebanese side will resume fighting, because that will hamper the political solution in a dangerous manner.

Delivers Message

JN2506190189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] Rabat—This afternoon King Hassan II of Morocco received Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', who handed him a message from President Hafiz al-Asad.

The meeting was attended by Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali and Ahmed Reda Guedira and Ahmed Bensouda, advisers to King Hassan II.

PDRY

Official Issues Statement on Moscow TV

EA2306133889 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] Brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, said in a special statement for Moscow TV and radio marking the 28th anniversary of the Corrective June Step that the glorious Corrective Step of 22 June 1969 represented an important turning point in the destiny of the people's revolution in Democratic Yemen. The statement was broadcast by Soviet TV today.

The fruit of the Corrective June Step was the restoration of the radiance of the glorious 14 October Revolution, in that the progressive wing of the National Front Organization took the reins of authority and succeeded in incorporating into its programs the tasks and aims of the development of the Yemeni Democratic Revolution. Immediately after its victory, it defined the options for socialist development in Democratic Yemen. Brother al-Attas said: In the light of those options the people adopted a series of revolutionary measures to build a new life for themselves—politically, economically, and socially. The glorious nationalization decisions were issued that year.

In the years that followed, specifically in 1972, the amended law on agricultural reform in Democratic Yemen was issued. This law and others provided a strong basis for economic and social development in Democratic Yemen. He said that the Corrective Step strengthened revolutionary links with the friendly socialist camp, which stood determinedly by the people of Democratic Yemen against all the conspiracies hatched against the country.

Al-Bid Receives YAR Communications Minister

EA2306180889 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] This morning Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee, received in his office Muhammad al-Khadim al-Wajih, minister of communications and telecommunications and member of the permanent committee in the northern part of the homeland, who conveyed to the former the greetings of Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the Constituent People's Assembly. Al- Wajih also briefed him on the progress of unificatory steps and joint coordination in the field of communications and telecommunications and on the talks he had held with Mr [as heard] Salih 'Abdullah Muthana, minister of communications in the southern part, on these matters.

During the meeting, Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid stressed that the leadership of the southern part of the homeland would act to develop, strengthen, and coordinate the unificatory steps between the two parts in the field of communications and telecommunications in the service of the interests of our Yemeni people, thus adding another paving stone to the path leading to the restoration of Yemeni unity. He also charged the minister with conveying his greetings to his brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The meeting was attended by Brother Salih 'Abdullah Muthana, minister of communications in the southern part.

Planning Delegation Returns From YAR Talks

EA2306134389 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] Brother Abdullah Sa'id Abaddan, deputy planning minister, returned to Aden at noon today from Sanaa, where he led the south's delegation at the meetings of a number of technical committees specializing in planning, customs, and banking. In a statement to ADEN NEWS AGENCY, Brother Abaddan described his visit to the north as an excellent opportunity to hold a series of meetings for the officials working in those sectors.

He said that during these meetings the minutes of the third session of the Joint Planning and Development Committee of the two parts had been signed, along with two papers on coordination of customs and banking. He said that the minutes embraced an exchange of views on matters of interest to the homeland and ways of strengthening coordination between the relevant organizations.

At the end of his statement, he added that during his visit he had met Brothers Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-Attar, deputy prime minister, minister of development, director of the Central Planning Organization, and member of the Permanent Committee, and Yahya Husayn al-Arashi, minister of state for unity affairs and member of the Permanent Committee, whom he had briefed on the achievements of the Specialist Committee meetings.

He said Brothers al-Attar and al-Arashi had expressed satisfaction with the results of the meetings. He also confirmed that the relevant organizations had agreed to hold their next meetings in Aden later this year.

Saudi Arabia

Source Says King Fahd 'in Full Health'

LD2306192989 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Riyadh, 23 Jun (SPA)—Denying a UPI news item published on Friday citing IRNA in Damascus on the hospitalization of King Fahd Ibn-'Abd al-'Aziz in the Riyadh Hospital because of a serious illness—as alleged by the agency—an official source told SPA today:

"Malice may make malevolent people fabricate such base calumnies, but it is regrettable that an important news agency such as UPI gets caught in the trap of Iranian malice and publishes such an item without verifying its truth."

The source further said:

"The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, while denying the truth of this news in whole and in part, would like to stress to all that the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Ibn-'Abd al-'Aziz, may God protect him, is in full health, more thanks be to God, and is in Fes, where he is currently staying in order to exert his good efforts and intensify contacts with his brothers, the members of the higher Arab three-man committee for handling the Lebanese crisis."

The source concluded by saying: "Evil only returns to its originator."

Editorial on 'Sedition' During Pilgrimage
JN2406100289 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 19 Jun 89 p 3

[Editorial: "No Sedition in Pilgrimage"]

[Text] All competent departments are intensifying efforts in preparation for this year's pilgrimage. The citizens also are contributing to welcoming the guests of God; facilitating their mission to fulfill the obligations of pilgrimage; and making it easy for those guests to come, perform the pilgrimage, and return home, God willing.

The government is concerned with doing its best to make the pilgrims feel comfortable. At the same time, the government wants to make pilgrims perform pilgrimage without any obstacles. Therefore, the government will not placate those who might encroach on this season in any fashion. Pilgrimage cannot be exploited to propagate slogans or create sedition among Muslims.

God bestowed security and prosperity upon the worshippers in this sacred land. And the only way to deal with those who encroach on this security and prosperity must be through firmness and force. During the seasons of worship, including pilgrimage, everyone is duty-bound to demonstrate further firmness and force. The government, which cannot be lenient in these matters, is aware that the homeland's security, citizens' safety, and the pilgrims' comfort cannot be relinquished, and those who tamper with them cannot be treated with lenience.

All government departments and all citizens are exerting efforts to give a splendid example on performing duty. Nobody will accept encroachment on this in any form or way.

Firmness is a way to prevent tampering with the security and safety of the homeland and citizens and to deter those who let themselves be seduced to encroach on this pilgrimage by propagating slogans or creating fear among the Muslims who come from all over the world to perform pilgrimage in safety and comfort.

Mubarak Phones King Fahd for Discussions
NC2306203089 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] At the place where he is staying in the Kingdom of Morocco, King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, received a telephone call today from his brother His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

During the telephone conversation, views were exchanged on several Arab issues of mutual interest to the two countries.

United Arab Emirates

'Arafat Stopover in Abu Dhabi Reported
JN2406082089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0800 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 24 Jun (WAKH)—Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, stopped over at Abu Dhabi Airport this morning while en route to Pakistan. He was received and seen off by Shaykh Surur Bin-Muhammad Al Nuhayyan, chief of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] Presidential Office; 'Ali al-Shurafa, director of the Presidential Office; and a number of officials from the Foreign Ministry.

Yemen Arab Republic

Telecommunications Minister Returns From Aden
JN2306175589 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Brother Muhammad al-Khadim al-Wajih, minister of telecommunications and Standing Committee member, and his delegation returned to Sanaa today after a visit to the southern part of the homeland during which he participated in a celebration to open a direct line between the two parts of Yemen.

He made a statement to SABA' news agency in which he said that during the visit the minutes of the meetings of the technical committee for telecommunications cooperation between the two parts were signed. He said the minutes standardize telephone charges, organize the operation of all telephone channels between the two parts, and increase telegraph and direct telex services. The minutes also stipulate enabling the sons of the southern part of the homeland to acquire telecommunications skills at the higher telecommunications institute in Sanaa.

He added that he and officials in the southern part of the homeland discussed means to improve and promote means of telecommunications between the two parts of Yemen.

Secret Service Accused of Poisoning Kurds

AU2606095389 Vienna WIENER ZEITUNG in German 25 Jun 89 p 1

[Ferdinand Hennerbichler report: "Poison Attack on Kurds"]

[Excerpt] The Iraqi secret service has allegedly poisoned about 700 Kurdish refugees in camps in Turkey. The Iraqi Army is on the point of forcibly resettling hundreds of thousands of Kurds from border areas in Iraq to desert areas. This was reported by one of the major Iraqi Kurdish leaders, Jalal Talabani, in a telephone conversation with WIENER ZEITUNG from Saqqez in Iran.

Talabani said that he can confirm reports by Turkish newspapers that the Iraqi secret service has caused large-scale food poisoning among the approximately 50,000 Kurdish poison-gas victims in camps in eastern Turkey. More than 4,000 Kurdish refugees are affected.

So far about 700 Kurds have died of food poisoning. At least 70 Kurds have reportedly been crippled for life.

Already before this statement, the mayor of Diyarbakir accused the Iraqi secret service of poisoning large numbers of Kurdish refugees on Turkish territory.

The Iraqi Government categorically denies these assertions and rejects any involvement in this poisoning. [passage omitted]

Ba'th Party Issues Statement on Founder's Death

JN2406050889 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0400 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Statement issued by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National and Regional Commands on 24 June 1989]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party national and regional commands announce with deep sorrow to the party strugglers throughout the Arab homeland and the world, to the masses of the Arab nation, and to all nationalist strugglers of the party and the Arab nation the death of Comrade Michel 'Aflaq, the founder and secretary general of the party. Comrade Michel 'Aflaq died yesterday, Friday, 20 Dhu'l-Qa'dah 1409 Hegira, corresponding to 23 June 1989 after a serious health crisis that had afflicted him since 10 June. [passage omitted]

The National and Regional Commands would like to announce on the death of the great deceased that late 'Aflaq, may God have mercy on him, embraced Islam as his religion. He and his comrades in the command did not want to announce this out of his and their concern that this option would be given a political interpretation.

Our solace is that the ideas, principles, and march of the deceased, the founder of the party, have produced values, programs, and results whose effects have always been great on the nation and the party strugglers.

The party that was inspired by the deceased's thinking and struggle pledges to God and the Arab nation to continue the march in light of the great principles in which the deceased had faith. This march will continue until the objectives of the Arab nation are achieved.

God have mercy on the deceased and make paradise his final abode. From God we come and unto Him we return.

Further on Kidnapping of U.S. Relief Worker

Hostage Released 23 Jun

TA2306151989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] And in a report just from the newsroom, our correspondent Alan Ben-'Ami reports that Chris George, the U.S. aid agency official who was kidnapped in Gaza, has been released. He is currently driving to join his family in Ramallah, accompanied by a representative of the International Red Cross.

Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reports that this has been confirmed by the ABC television network.

Said in 'Good Condition'

TA2306172689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Chris George, the U.S. citizen who was kidnapped in Gaza, was released a little more than an hour ago. George, who works for the CDF [Community Development Fund] welfare agency, appeared at a hotel in Gaza approximately 1 hour ago. He seemed in good health. He has already spoken to the U.S. ambassador and reassured him about his condition. 'Amos Har'el, our military correspondent, is in the studio with more details:

[Har'el] As stated earlier, Chris George, the U.S. aid agency official, has been released. Arab journalists told an AP correspondent that George was let go after 30 hours in captivity. One of the journalists said that George arrived at the (Larnah) House Hotel in Gaza, where he shook hands with hotel employees and journalists. This happened at approximately 1730 [1430 GMT]. The journalist said that George seemed slightly dazed, but in reasonable shape. The Arab journalist asked to remain anonymous.

A member of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency [UNRWA] said that George was released unharmed and in good condition. He added that George had left Gaza accompanied by U.S. diplomats.

The U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv confirms the report on George's release. A source inside the embassy told Sari'el Shani, our foreign news editor, that the kidnapped man had already spoken to U.S. Ambassador William Brown and assured him that he is in good health. George is currently on his way to join his family in Ramallah, and the embassy refused to divulge his exact location. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] Jerusalem received the news of George's release with satisfaction. Before news of his release broke, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said that this incident proves that the PLO has always been and still is a terrorist organization. 'Aqiva Eldar reports from Jerusalem:

[Eldar] Official Jerusalem's involvement in the kidnapping case was quite limited, and senior officials in the Defense and Foreign Ministries were late in hearing the news of the hostage's release. The U.S. Embassy preferred to handle the matter itself and therefore our military and political forces contented themselves with anxiously following events, as a Foreign Ministry spokesman put it. The Americans were confident they could secure the release of the hostage since the PLO and even the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] are not interested in harming the dialogue taking place with the United States now.

Consequently the embassy decided to maintain a low profile and not even condemn the kidnappers, while conducting careful contacts with them.

Already this morning Jerusalem was rife with estimates that the kidnappers were a group of youths who wished to draw attention to themselves. They did not take the matter seriously even themselves and did not expect Israel to release terrorists.

Search Continues for Kidnappers

TA2306173889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Chris George, the director of the Community Development Fund, has been released in Gaza. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the search for the kidnappers is continuing. The Gaza Strip is closed, and entry is forbidden to media personnel or people who are not inhabitants of the Strip. Our correspondent Dan Eshel reports that Chris George spoke with U.S. Ambassador William Brown approximately 1 hour ago and reported that he is in good health and happy to be released.

The U.S. Embassy told our correspondent that the kidnappers demanded the release of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel, but that no negotiations had been held with them.

At this moment our correspondent Arye Gus tells us that Chris George has not arrived at his home in Ramallah, which means he was probably detained at the Erez checkpoint and will not get home until later. In a conversation with members of his family, he said he was released at the entrance to the building he lives in while in Gaza. George said he had been treated well.

[Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew at 1715 GMT on 23 June reports that the Popular Army, an organization connected to the Fatah, has "assumed responsibility for the kidnapping."]

Further Details on Kidnapping

TA2306202389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Chris George, the U.S. aid agency official who was released by his kidnappers in Gaza this afternoon, said that he was kidnapped by three men armed with a revolver.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that Chris George returned to his home in Ramallah this evening and said that he was well treated and fed by his captors, although he was kept alone in a room. He knew one of the kidnappers, whose name is Yusuf Abu-Nasir.

Palestinian sources claimed through AFP that Abu-Nasir is known to be insane, but Chris George denies this. George added that the three men told him they were acting on their own initiative and would release him as soon as they were ordered to do so. Before they released him, they handed him a letter in Arabic and told him he would be let go on the condition that he delivered the letter to its destination.

Our correspondent adds that George was interrogated for a short time by the Israeli security forces.

Kidnapping Possibly 'Staged'

TA2406092689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] The Chris George kidnapping affair might have been staged. The defense authorities will investigate whether the kidnapped American plotted his abduction together with his kidnappers in order to extort the release of kidnapped [as heard] terrorists by Israel.

This suspicion was raised last night, after Chris George's pseudorelease, and after he gave his first version of what he called the kidnapping. It appears that he himself wrote or at least assisted in writing the letters of demands to Israeli authorities.

Chris George is hostile to Israel; he has been active in Gaza for several years. He has refused to say where he was kept during the simulated abduction or to name two of his kidnappers.

It has also become apparent that the letters that reached the U.S. Embassy in which the kidnappers demanded the release of terrorists were signed by the Palestinian Popular Army, a body established by Fatah's Force-17.

George Holds News Conference

TA2406110589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] Chris George is back with his family in Ramallah today. However, many questions still remain a mystery as the investigation goes on.

Chris George held this impromptu news conference in Ramallah last night, after being released. Voice of Israel's Arye Gus was there:

[Begin recording] [George] I want to say tonight that I am very happy to be home with my family. I was treated well. I am especially grateful and moved by the show of support from all levels and all sides of the Palestinian community. I thought about two groups of people a lot during the last 2 days: One was my family, and the other group were the Palestinians, particularly in Gaza, who I knew were working overtime to try to bring it to an end. I am very grateful for the work that they have done.

I was taken from the [Community Development Fund] office in Gaza by three men. I was pushed into a car. They had weapons—3 handguns—and I was driven for about ½ an hour to some house somewhere in Gaza. That's where I stayed for the next...I figure it as about 29 hours.

[Unidentified correspondent] How did they treat you?

[George] Aside from the fact that I was taken and held against my will, and aside from the fact that there was the threat of violence, otherwise I was treated as their guest. I was given very good food, my hands were never tied, I was given virtually anything I wanted. I was allowed to go to the bathroom, I talked to them freely, I even took up the habit of smoking. I smoked half a pack of cigarettes.

[Gus] Who were they? Did they identify themselves?

[George] I know only one person of the three, and I think you all know him too. His name is Muhammad Abu-Nasir. He had come into the office over the last 2 years. He wanted help in building a playground in Jabalyah camp, and we had considered the project, but the work that he had done in the playground was stopped by the Israeli authorities, so the project did not get anywhere.

They took me because I am an American, and Muhammad said they took me because I was well known. They took me to publicize and to draw attention to their cause. They feel they have no voice, and this was the only way they could do it. [end recording]

And what of the kidnappers' demands for his release?

[Begin recording] [George] Their demands were written in the two letters that I was told to write: Stop to all deportations, release of some prisoners, and a thorough investigation into the death of 'Umar al-Qasim.

[Correspondent] Have you been given messages to pass to President Bush?

[George] I was released on condition that I take a letter to President Bush, and I was also asked to give that letter to the press, so I gave it to someone from the press at the (Marna House). [end recording]

And was Chris George grateful for the massive Israeli search launched for his release?

[Begin recording] [George] I don't want to answer that now. [end recording]

Reporter Arye Gus then told Chris George that he did not appear to be really condemning the kidnapping.

[Begin recording] [George] Oh, no, I am condemning it. It is not only immoral, but it is also a criminal act. I am not at all pleased that it happened.

[Correspondent] And how do you feel toward your captors?

[George] Toward my captors I have mixed feelings, but the experience hasn't affected the way I feel for Palestinians. [end recording]

'Defense Sources' Comment

TA2506045289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] Defense sources do not believe that U.S. welfare worker Chris George staged his kidnapping. They believe, however, that he cooperated with his captors and even helped them draft their demands. This was reported by our correspondent Arye Gus. George has decided to leave Israel. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0400 GMT on 25 June adds that sources familiar with kidnap victim Chris George deny reports that George "intends to quit his job and leave the area. This just does not match the man's personality, said one source who has known the American well for many years." Friends say he may decide to take a holiday, "but he certainly will not be leaving the area."]

Rabin Briefs Cabinet

TA2606101189 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Jun 89 pp A-1, 2

[Excerpt] The security forces are continuing a wide-scale hunt for Muhammad Abu-Nasir and the two other kidnappers of Chris George, the head of the U.S. Save the Children Fund. The searches are concentrated in the Jabalyah refugee camp and its environs.

Official Israeli sources reported yesterday that George would not be deported after it became clear that he had played no part in planning the abduction and that he had cooperated with the kidnappers because of the pressures he faced at knifepoint.

Senior security sources said yesterday that George is still not cooperating fully with his interrogators, but they understand his reasons, saying that while kidnapped he was under heavy emotional pressure and that he still does not feel free to talk about everything he knows.

Many questions surrounding the circumstances of the kidnapping still remain unexplained, security sources told the Cabinet yesterday. They said George would be thoroughly interrogated because he does not have diplomatic immunity. He will have to assist the security forces as much as possible in finding the three abductors.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told the Cabinet that immediately after learning of George's kidnapping, security forces began looking for him. The security forces expressed surprise over the circumstances surrounding the kidnapping. Although they do not suspect George of assisting in staging the kidnapping, the extent to which he later cooperated with his abductors is still unclear.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Alon Li'el said: "The security authorities now believe that they have enough information to determine that George was kidnapped and that it was done by force. George was not involved at all in organizing the kidnapping."

In reply to a question, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that no U.S. official interfered or exerted pressure to prevent Israel from taking action over the kidnapping. [passage omitted]

No Expulsion Planned

TA2506153989 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Studio discussion between moderator Dan Shilon and political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar—live]

[Text] [Shilon] Now it is official. Chris George's kidnapping was not staged; therefore, there is no intention in Jerusalem to expel him from Israel. 'Aqiva Eldar, this is quite a strange story, isn't it?

[Eldar] Well after the guy calmed down a bit—they say he was in a state of shock—and began talking to his interrogators—of course he was not interrogated as a suspect, but as someone involved in the incident—he began recounting more accurate details, and the picture slowly became more clear. It is now clear that the kidnapping was not staged, at least not by Chris George. He was indeed held by force, and while he cooperated with his kidnappers to some extent, he was certainly not pleased with the entire matter and definitely happy to be released.

The details known at the moment are that the kidnappers were led by a man who had been released in the Jibril prisoner exchange in May 1985 [in which hundreds of Palestinian terrorists were released in exchange for

several Israeli soldiers]. It is not clear to what organization the man belongs today. The letters he signed are on behalf of the Palestinian Popular Army [last three words in English], which was set up in January 1989. This organization claims to receive its orders only from the senior command of Fatah's Force-17.

The investigation has cleared George of any cooperation with terrorists, so there is no reason for him to leave the country.

The organization that sent him to work here, however, has decided it is time for him to return home. Some people will certainly say that this is some kind of under-the-table agreement, but officially, Jerusalem states that there is no reason to expel him.

[Shilon] What is the extortion value, if any, of the kidnapping of such a man?

[Eldar] It is believed that these people wished to attract some attention and did not really expect to be taken seriously. They did not think anyone would really release the terrorists that they demanded be let go. It is also completely clear that they had no intention of killing the man. They might have thought that, owing to his support for the Palestinian struggle, he would cooperate with them and make matters easier. They got the attention they desired. The international media, especially U.S. media—as the man is a U.S. citizen—once more focused on the intifadah [uprising], on Gaza, and on the different organizations working there. They got this attention at least, and they are pleased with that.

[Shilon] Thank you, 'Aqiva Eldar.

'Conflicts' Between Factions in Ramallah Noted

TA2506164689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] Conflicts have recently arisen between activists of the Fatah and of various rejectionist fronts in the Ramallah region on issues related to the intifadah [uprising]. These conflicts have now taken the form of threats and car torching. One of the cars that was set on fire belongs to Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, head of Arab Journalists Association and one of the prominent Palestinian activists.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the Unified National Command of the Uprising today published a statement condemning the car torchings and warning of a split in Palestinian unity. The statement also contained a threat of retaliation.

Nabulus Man Murdered; 5 Wounded in Disturbances

TA2506193489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] A 21-year-old man was murdered in Nabulus tonight. Local residents have said it is common knowledge that the victim aided the Israeli authorities. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the man's body was found in a schoolyard in Nabulus. His relations said that last night [as heard] several masked youths arrived at his home, took him to an unknown location, and murdered him.

In the disturbances at the Balatah refugee camp, near Nabulus, five locals were injured by army gunfire. Arab residents have reported that the number of casualties was higher and that incidents also occurred in other places.

Update on 25 Jun Territories Incidents

TA2606091289 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Jun 89 pp A-1, 2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef and 'Ezra Yanuv]

[Excerpts] Four firebombs were hurled last night at a no 160 bus traveling from Jerusalem to Qiryat Arba'. Two of the firebombs ignited, while two shattered on the road. There were no casualties or damage.

The firebomb attack occurred between Zekhukhit Junction in Hebron and Haharsina Hill. The bus, which was traveling from Jerusalem, was earlier stoned in Bethlehem and Halhul.

The part of the road where the firebomb attack occurred has been the site of nine previous firebomb attacks during the past 2 months.

Settlement leaders sent a cable to the defense minister and the prime minister demanding tough action to maintain security in the region; they stated that otherwise they will be forced to take steps to protect their families.

Yesterday, three local residents of the territories were attacked on suspicion of cooperating with Israeli authorities. Two were murdered, while the third was hospitalized in critical condition in a Nabulus hospital. In the morning, the body of Zahir Zalaf, 21, of Nabulus, was discovered. He was stabbed and beaten to death after being suspected of being in contact with security elements. Kharuti Mahmud Sa'id, 29, was attacked with knives and hospitalized in serious condition at Rafidiyah Hospital in the town.

The third casualty, who was murdered after also being suspected of collaborating with Israel, came from a small village near Jerusalem.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0700 GMT on 26 June adds that "a woman, aged about 30, was murdered in the Nabulus casbah last night." It said that Nabulus residents told correspondent Arye Gus that the woman and other relatives were "known to help the authorities."] [passage omitted]

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] continued carrying out operations in Judaea and Samaria yesterday. Suspects were detained in many villages, and slogans, flags, and roadblocks were removed. Local sources said the IDF operated in 23 villages in the Janin, Nabulus, Tulkarm, Ramallah, and Bethlehem areas.

There was a large procession in Ramallah and al-Birah yesterday to demand the reopening of schools. The demonstrators were dispersed by force, and there were reports of casualties caused by rubber bullets. The army closed the region. [passage omitted]

1 Killed, 2 Detained in Khan Yunus Clash

TA2506061689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] Yusuf 'Abd-al-Karim Farara, a 25-year-old Khan Yunus resident, was killed while attempting to attack an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol last night. An IDF unit patrolling Khan Yunus last night was attacked by a group of masked youths with axes and knives. The IDF spokesman reports that procedures for holding suspects were followed and when the assailants did not stop, Yusuf, who was among them, was shot and killed. Two others were later captured.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 25 June in a page 8 article describing further incidents reports that "a Palestinian man was shot and killed in Hebron yesterday in a clash with troops and a Gaza resident suspected of being a collaborator was strangled to death by a fellow inmate at the Qezi'ot detention camp on Friday." The report cites Palestinian sources as stating that "'Aynan al-Muhtasib, 25, was shot and killed by soldiers after Friday prayers." The IDF spokesman says the circumstances are being investigated.

The report adds the IDF reported 9 wounded over the weekend in the wake of a general strike halting commercial activity in the West Bank and Gaza called by the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, "while Palestinian reports put the figure at 16."]

Prisoner Murdered in Qezi'ot for 'Collaboration'

TA2406192789 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] A prisoner was murdered yesterday in the Qezi'ot military detention center in the Negev. The murdered man was 22-year-old Muhammad Faraj Yusuf abu-Jadallah.

An ITIM correspondent reports that yesterday morning when the soldiers began the roll call, one of the prisoners, a 23-year-old man from Gaza, came out of his tent holding a body in his arms. He approached the soldiers, threw the body at their feet, and declared he had killed the man for collaborating with army authorities.

The suspect confessed the crime and showed the investigators how he had strangled the prisoner.

Police Take Body for Exam; 11 Settlers Arrested

TA2406185289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] The police have taken the body of the youth killed yesterday out of the village of Qarawat Bani Zayd. The police wish to examine the body to see whether the youth was killed by settlers. Another youth was injured in yesterday's incident.

Police have arrested 11 settlers in connection with the case. They claim that stones were thrown at them and they were forced to fire in the air. Among those arrested is the secretary of the Tehiya Party and a member of the Jewish underground who was imprisoned for 3 years.

The villagers opposed the removal of the body, and army troops fired rubber bullets, wounding four local residents.

Ballistic Tests on Hebron Settlers' Guns Ordered

TA2506135589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] The police and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] have ordered a ballistic examination of all Uzi submachine guns belonging to the residents of Qiryat Arba', Hebron, and some of the Hebron Hills settlements as a condition for the renewal of their license.

Our correspondent Moti Amir was told that the ballistic test is needed in the investigation of the shooting incident which took place at the Jaffa Gate in Jerusalem. An Arab youth was killed in the incident, and three others were wounded.

The settlers' leaders protested the police decision, telling our correspondent that this action sullies the reputation of all the settlers as a group.

Decrease in Territories Residents' Work Hours

TA2606090389 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 25 Jun 89

["Communicated by the Central Bureau of Statistics spokesman"—GPO subhead]

[Excerpt] In 1988, the total amount of work hours by residents of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza averaged 9.5 million hours weekly, about a quarter less than in 1987.

Residents of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza employed in Israel worked an average of approximately 3.7 million hours per week, 24 percent less than in 1987. These employees' work hours during 1988 constituted 6.6 percent of the total work hours of all employees in Israel, as compared with 8.8 percent in 1987. The decline in the amount of work hours totaled about 18 percent in the

agriculture and construction branches, and approximately 35 percent in the industry branch. Employees from Judaea and Samaria worked about 21 percent less hours, and those from the Gaza District worked approximately 28

less than in 1987. [passage omitted]

Request for Harsher Punitive Measures Studied

TA2606100389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Jun 89 p 1

[Report by 'Oz Frankel and Asher Wallfish]

[Excerpt] The Defence Ministry's request for legal authorization to impose harsher punitive measures in the territories will be considered by inter-ministerial teams of experts set up yesterday by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Justice Minister Dan Meridor.

The two ministers met after the weekly Cabinet session for a short discussion which apparently did not bring their reported disagreement over the suggested measures into the open. If implemented, these measures are likely to significantly curtail judicial supervision over IDF [Israel Defense Forces] actions in the West Bank and Gaza. [passage omitted]

Clashes, Operations in South Lebanon Reported

SLA Search Reveals Weapons

TA2306124389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] A South Lebanese Army [SLA] force carried out an initiated operation north of the security zone last night and this morning. The SLA soldiers sustained no casualties. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the searches by the SLA soldiers took place in the area of the villages of al-Dallafah and al-Siri in the eastern sector. The SLA soldiers discovered numerous weapons. The operation was completed at noon, and the SLA force returned to its base.

Further on Operations

TA2306175889 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1715 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Four terrorists were killed and an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was slightly wounded this afternoon in the vicinity of the village of Maydun, north of the security zone in southern Lebanon.

Moshe Shlonsky, our military affairs correspondent, reports that an IDF force, which returned to the security zone a very short while ago, had conducted a search for terrorists in the framework of initiated activity. In the course of the subsequent confrontation, Katyusha rockets were fired at villages within the security zone.

6 'Terrorists' Killed

TA2406053889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] Six terrorists were killed in yesterday's operation north of the security zone in Lebanon. In a debriefing carried out after the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operation north of the security zone, it transpired that two more terrorists were killed. The total number of terrorists killed south of Maydun now stands at six.

It will be remembered that an IDF soldier was slightly wounded and transferred to Rambam Hospital.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe notes that the IDF squad, which operated in an area where movement is difficult, made contact with terrorists and initiated a short-range exchange of fire. Subsequently, the soldiers charged the terrorists, throwing grenades and firing from light weapons.

It will be remembered that the area in which the IDF squad operated is known as Hizballah territory.

Commentator Discusses 'Currency Frenzy'
JN2606071489 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Jun 89 p 6

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff writer]

[Text] "Oh boy, the dollar is trading at 660 fils in the market today..."

"Gosh, the dollar has hit 675 fils..."

"My God, a friend has told me that he had bought dollars at 700 fils..."

And, thus, the word spreads to another friend and rumours keep on feeding the fools.

To describe colleagues, neighbours, relatives and friends as fools is surely unrespectful and ill-mannered, but not when I do not detach myself from the group. The foreign currency frenzy that is sweeping every home is really maddening. To a further extent, one can say that anybody who is taking the sidelines is either secretively involved up to his ears in the "new trade" or regrettably lamenting his inability to pitch in his lot.

Listen to a 45-year-old man who knows very little about economic matters, even in general, and who confines himself to following-up events in Israel and the occupied territories telling a secret to a three-men gathering.

"Confidentially, I hear that the Jordanian dinar will be equal to one dollar before the end of this year."

When one kilogramme of tomatoes was worth 500 fils or more, a mechanic at a garage was asking me if I could provide him dollars. The tomatoes, now selling for 120 fils a kilogramme, seemed not only unimportant then but also last week when he showed his appetite for dollars again.

Many people tell me that I always jump from one subject to another without making the proper link between the two but, you see, it's hard to control emotions when everybody keeps unnerving you on the "dollar trade" issue. The talk about foreign currencies is becoming as much conventional as discussing the weather to make new friends and contacts and to attain a social status equal to that of a knowledgeable VIP.

Okay, I know. A few more words and I'll be accused of heating up the situation but, truly, aren't our economic and social behaviours going to far extremes. Regardless of the reasons and shortfalls that led to the current economic difficulties; there should be a process to change consumer behaviour patterns in Jordan and to change the social values of those Jordanians who cherish Western dresses and perfumes and Western life-style in general.

Now don't get me wrong. More or less, I fit somewhere in the last category. What I am stressing is that every citizen should not only live within his income but, without making a big fuss about government measures, every citizen should also readjust his own personal income within the Kingdom's income.

The above statement leads to areas of specialty to known economic writers and I don't want to step on their toes. I'd rather stick to my simple theme of behaviours.

The ban on imports of luxury items and other non-essentials, the "managed flotation" of the dinar, the crackdown on moneychangers and the price rises which followed should have all forced a positive change in our "extravagant thinking and actions" to face the reality of us living beyond our personal and national resources. But, it seems, the higher costs did not dent the crave for a "utopia living."

Then, a new approach took shape...

First, the formation of a new government and the appointment of an economic team which can't be described more than "top excellent," especially in light of the banking background of some of the ministers. Later came the appointment of Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi at the helm of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) and the statement that he made on gold reserves.

The disclosure of the sale of 27 percent of Jordan's gold reserves of one million ounces heralded some psychological comfort but it was not enough to alter the frantic amassing and hoarding of foreign currencies by the public whose behaviour was not in line with the frankness of the new CBJ governor.

Let's overlook that element. Other developments which followed ranged from amending income tax regulations on banks's profits and other accounting practices to another batch of new appointments of highly qualified personnel to key government posts.

For the life of me, I cannot think of anything that could have been better to reassure the public and win the citizens' confidence to cooperate willingly with the new drive to achieve economic stability. But, still, their was no slack in the dollar trade; it continued to be active and the consumer behaviour is not where it should have come to rest.

Here is an example:

I was showing this draft article to a friend and she smiled reading the first two paragraphs but then she asked me about the third paragraph. I said it was not really important, but she said she wanted me to publish a "credible" article and pointed out that my friend whom I quoted in the third paragraph as wrong because she had heard that the dollar was trading around 800 fils.

Maybe I should cite another example on consumer behaviour to show that even middle and low income Jordanians are equally inconsiderate of the Kingdom's delicate economic situation—though at a level not very noticeable.

The scene was at the 'Ain Ghazal Civil Consumers Corporation. Time: 9:30 a.m. on a Friday. Four shelves each about 20 metres long were emptied of tissue paper and other paper items in less than half an hour, according to an employee there. He said people were lining up from as early as 7:30 a.m.

The rush was probably triggered by a controversy over prices of such products which fluctuated for a week before reportedly being pegged down by the Ministry of Supply.

Analysing the effects of such "personal benefit" attitudes is an endless and unnecessary exercise as it can be summarised in few words... "Disrupting national economic stability."

At this stage, I wonder if the following ideas would help calm the markets and frighten some profit-takers and manipulators who are treating national interests as their last interest.

A) Isn't it appropriate to announce that Jordan will receive, in the coming few weeks funds from the IMF and the World Bank in exchange for implementing a structural adjustment programme. I think such an announcement is much needed now to prove that the Central Bank of Jordan will soon be moving to burn not only the fingers but also the hands of all those who speculate with the dinar.

This "tactic" or any other show of warning would surely scare, at least, the small saver and thus prompt a large part of our society to jump off "the dollar bandwagon."

West German financial dealers take the sidelines whenever the name of Karl Otto Poehl comes up. They say that the chief of the Bundesbank, the West German central bank, enjoys burning the fingers of all those who excessively tamper with the value of the deutsche mark.

I don't mean to change the subject but, after the "Poehl factor," I think Jordan needs to see a "Al-Nabulsi factor" or a "Jardanah factor" to really amputate some currency crooks here.

B) No one can argue against the "slow-but-sure" philosophy but isn't it appropriate for the "economy ministers" to tell the public about the plans they contemplate or about the steps they quietly implemented in their efforts to shore up the economy or, more accurately, public confidence in the economy.

A success policy which no one can not but admire is Margaret Thatcher's "stick and carrot" show with militant British miners whose wildcat strike years ago threatened to freeze Britons on lack of coal supplies. The fight was a matter of life or death but the interesting part was Thatcher's smart choice of an eloquent and talented specialist in mass communication who brightly allayed fears and won the public backing for the premier.

Jordanians have high expectations that need to be dampened slowly. Careful and coordinated press announcements by top officials are much needed at this stage either to inform the people and give them hope or to educate them and "guide" them to the correct path.

After all, Jordanians need not look too far to know that their living standards continue to be widely envied despite the hardships.

Economic Situation, 'Parallel' Groups Viewed

JN2406135589 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] The death toll of the incidents in southern Jordan reached 12 last night following the death of a citizen from Ma'an of wounds sustained in April during the demonstrations in the villages and cities in southern and western Jordan.

In the meantime, citizens intensified their demands regarding the need to take to account all those who have embezzled state funds and to tackle the issue of economic crimes. Our radio has learned that two trends prevail in Zayd Ibn-Shakir's government, which assumed power following the events: The first calls for punishment and for pinpointing responsibilities; the second prefers to forget about the practices of the previous government and to open a new page, not to cover up these practices but out of concern for the country's stability.

A political figure told our radio that the citizens oppose forgetting about the past and opening a new page before tackling the negative aspects carried out in the past. This figure disclosed the emergence of groups within the public sector's ranks that undertake a parallel role to that of the government, which has not as yet adopted any firm decisions in this respect. The political figure explained that these groups have distributed detailed documents based on accurate information on economic crimes in which figures from the previous government were involved. The motive of this parallel role, which is close to being a shadow government, is to protect the regime and the country and to bring pressure to bear on the government to have it expose things and act quickly to pinpoint responsibilities.

On the other hand, our radio has learned that the slogans the majority of candidates will raise during the forthcoming legislative elections will concern fighting nepotism and corruption and taking to account all those who embezzled public funds and the need to return them to the State Treasury, whose foreign debts during a period of 4 years have increased from $2 billion to $11 billion, $3 billion of which is interest.

AL-SHIRA' Article on U.S. Hostage Cited

NC2306133389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1320 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] The AL-SHIRA' magazine has said that one of the nine U.S. hostages being held in Lebanon passed away some time ago. The magazine does not identify the hostage in the article, which will be published in Saturday's edition and which was obtained by AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE. However, the magazine suggests that it could be a civilian who was kidnapped on 24 January 1987 whose health deteriorated or a military person who was wounded during his capture in April 1988.

AFP on Article

NC2306130789 Paris AFP in English 1245 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Beirut, June 23 (AFP)—One of the nine American hostages believed held in Lebanon "has been dead for some time," the pro-Syrian weekly Al-SHIRA' reported in an article to appear Saturday and obtained by AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

It did not identify the hostage but suggested it could be "a civilian kidnapped on January 24, 1987, with poor health, or a military person, wounded during his seizure in April 1988," the report said.

The only military person seized in Lebanon is Lieutenant Colonel Richard Higgins, 45, a Marine officer assigned to the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in south Lebanon and who was seized on February 17, 1988.

The kidnapping was claimed by the Organization of the Oppressed on Earth.

On January 24, 1987, gunmen grabbed four teachers at Beirut University College in predominantly Muslim West Beirut: three Americans and an Indian who has U.S. permanent residence and who was released on October 3, 1988.

The abductions of Jesse Turner, 48, a computer studies and mathematics teacher; Alann Steen, 47, a journalism teacher; Robert Polhill, 57, an accounting teacher; and their colleague Mithileshwar Singh were claimed by the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine.

On March 23, 1987, the group said Mr. Steen was "dying," and Mr. Polhill's wife Ferial said repeatedly that her husband, who suffered from a chronic illness, needed regular treatment.

The hostage takers are believed to be pro-Iranian.

Group To Release Official 'Within 24 Hours'

NC2406170289 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] Regarding the issue of the abduction of Eng Raji al-Bisat, the "I the Poor" organization [Munazzamat Ana al-Faqir] has contacted the Voice of the People radio and said that it will release Al-Bisat within 24 hours. The organization denounced the attitude of the prime minister and said that it will release Al-Bisat after he has pledged to refrain from engaging in practices against the poor, adding: Our hand is very long and it can reach whoever tries to tamper with livelihood of the poor.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Dr al-Huss has discussed with Interior Minister Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi the issue of Al-Bisat's abduction and the measures to be taken to secure his release.

Dr al-Rasi affirmed that the security authorities are very interested in this issue.

Official Released 24 Jun

NC2506051189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] It has been learned from West Beirut that Eng Raji al-Bisat, director of the Cereal and Beetroot Department, was released late last night. Al-Bisat was abducted in front of his home at Verdun Street on Wednesday [21 June] morning.

According to the information available, the abductors set Al-Bisat free in one of West Beirut's streets at 2330 last night. No further details are available.

'Awn To Storm W. Beirut if Syria Rejects Terms

JN2406095089 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 22-23 Jun 89 p 1

[From Muhammad 'Anan in Beirut]

[Text] AL-SIYASAH has learned from private sources that an envoy of Michel 'Awn, head of the Lebanese military government, has been in Damascus for the past 2 days to hold secret negotiations in the Syrian capital with the aim of effecting a thaw in relations between Damascus and 'Awn.

AL-SIYASAH has also learned that in his talks with the Syrian officials, 'Awn's secret envoy is concentrating on two points: The first is 'Awn's acceptance of constitutional reforms and the plans drawn up by the six-member committee headed by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad; and the second is 'Awn's acceptance of a candidate for the Lebanese Presidency proposed by Syria in exchange for Syria's acceptance of certain terms pertaining to lifting the siege that the Syrian forces are clamping on

East Beirut, opening crossing points and the airport, and approving 'Awn as the Army's commander in chief throughout the entire term of the new president.

AL-SIYASAH has also learned that in case Damascus rejects his terms, 'Awn will attempt to storm West Beirut along three lines and will shell the West Beirut supply lines.

AL-SIYASAH has also been informed that 'Awn informed U.S. Ambassador John McCarthy of his plans and intentions and asked the ambassador to inform his government about his position.

Group Claims Killing of Saudi Embassy Driver

NC2206165289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] In West Beirut today, a hitherto unknown organization calling itself the organization of the Arabian Peninsula Freemen [Munazzamat Ahrar al-Jazirah al-'Arabiyah] claimed responsibility for assassinating Saudi Embassy driver in Belgium Samir Jah al-Rasul the day before yesterday in Brussels. In a statement, the organization urged what it calls the free strugglers to target the Saudi ruling family until it is deposed.

'Violent' Clashes Between Israelis, Resistance

NC2306123789 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] A joint Israeli-Lahd force made up of 15 vehicles and 100 men advanced toward the western al-Biqa' area at 1115 today. The force advanced on three axes: The first was toward al-Dallafah and Qilya, where it stormed Al-Dallafah. The second axis was toward Jabal al-Dahr, and the third toward Maydun and 'Ayn al-Tinah.

Israeli helicopters took part in the operation and raked the Maydun woods, the Birkat Jabbur vicinity, and Al-Surayrah woods. Islamic resistance antiaircraft guns confronted the helicopters. Fierce confrontations between the occupiers and Islamic resistance groups involving all types of weapons have been in progress since 1200.

A resistance source announced a short time ago that the Islamic resistance groups were able to repel the assault on the Al-Dallafah-Qilya axis and that the Israeli vehicles began to withdraw. The source added that violent clashes are still going on at the Maydun triangle and confirmed that both sides suffered casualties.

Hizballah Positions Shelled

NC2306133689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1300 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] A source in the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon [UNIFIL] has confirmed to AFP that the occupation forces fired more than 50 shells on Hizballah positions this morning. He said he has no knowledge of any advance operation in western al-Biqa' because there are no UNIFIL troops in that area.

Israeli Warplanes Raid

NC2306111589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1106 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Israeli warplanes carried out an air raid on armed positions in western al-Biqa' and Iqlim al-Tuffah at 1110 today. The Israeli aircraft also raided the ridges overlooking Maydun. According to reports from western al-Biqa', the Israeli forces are trying to advance toward Al-Dallafah, Al-Siri, and Maydun under the protection of helicopters. Clashes are raging between the Israelis and gunmen from the Amal Movement and Hizballah.

Israeli Forces in Al-Dallafah

NC2306151589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Excerpts] The intensity of the clashes between the Israeli forces and the armed organizations, including the Amal Movement and Hizballah, on the outskirts of Al-Siri and Maydun townships has abated. [passage omitted] Our correspondent in the south reports that the Israeli forces have entered Al-Dallafah township, where they have begun a search operation.

A source of the so-called Islamic Resistance has stated that the resistance groups have repulsed the attack on the Al-Dallafah-Qilya axis and that the Israeli vehicles have begun withdrawing. The source added that clashes are continuing near Maydun triangle.

Israeli military and South Lebanese Army [SLA] sources have confirmed that a joint force raked the vicinity of Al-Dallafah bridge, particularly Birkat Jabbur and Maydun, this morning. The sources pointed out that the operation was accompanied by Israeli artillery shelling and helicopter flights.

Hizballah has announced that the Israeli army has waged a wide-scale attack against its positions south of Al-Biqa' plain and that units backed by helicopters advanced toward its positions in Maydun. [passage omitted]

Our correspondent reported a short while ago that two rockets fell in the vicinity of Marj 'Uyun town at 1600 this afternoon but there were no casualties.

Shelling of Jubayl, Kasrawan Coasts Resumes

NC2606061189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Text] Syrian bombardment of the Jubayl and Kasrawan coasts resumed at approximately 0740 this morning, when the coasts were the target of a number of shells. In the meantime, there was a limited setback along the Beirut combat lines this morning. Sniper fire was reported and some rockets fell on the eastern areas adjacent to the combat lines.

'Abdallah Al-Ahmar Receives Egyptian Nasirists

JN2206185989 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party this evening received Muhammad Fa'iq, 'Abd-al-'Azim al-Mughrabi, Kamil al-Zuhayri, and Salah Muhib, members of the general secretariat of the Arab Socialist Nasirite Party [ASNP] in the Arab Republic of Egypt, who are attending the 17th congress of the Arab Lawyers Union. They talked about the proceedings of the congress, the importance of joint Arab action, and the role of Arab political organizations in intensifying struggle to promote Arab unity and stand up to imperialist and Zionist machinations against Arab existence.

Comrade al-Ahmar stressed that the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party is pursuing a principled line and cited its militant record on current Arab causes, particularly Arab unity, the Arab-Zionist conflict, and resolution of the Lebanese crisis to safeguard Lebanon's Arab identity and unity.

Both sides stressed the importance of grass-roots interaction between the social and political organizations in the sisterly states of Syria and Egypt.

The lawyers from the ASNP in Egypt voiced their appreciation of Syria's line led by the struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, Syria's pan-Arab role, and the identity of views between their group and the Ba'th Party vis-a-vis key issues of Arab struggle.

Al-Asad Orders Plane for Egyptian Lawyers

JN2406170989 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 22 Jun 89 p 1

[By Safwat Muhammad]

[Text] Damascus—In a gesture to honor them, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has ordered a special Syrian airplane be made available to transport to Cairo Egyptian lawyers and journalists taking part in the Arab Lawyers Union conference in Damascus.

Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman has confirmed the strength of Egyptian-Syrian relations and said that these relations have never ceased. This occurred during his meeting with Egyptian journalists in Damascus. The Syrian minister also said he feels optimistic over President Mubarak's attendance at the recent Arab summit.

Al-Asad Receives Sudanese Justice Minister

JN2106132089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 21 Jun 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1000 today Sudanese Justice Minister 'Uthman 'Umar al-Sharif. The meeting was attended by Justice Minister Khalid al-Ansari.

The Sudanese minister conveyed to the president a message from Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party, along with his greetings. The president thanked the minister and asked him to convey his greetings to Al-Mirghani.

The discussion during this meeting dealt with bilateral relations and the work of the 17th conference of the Arab Lawyers Union currently meeting in Damascus.

Paper Cited on 'Awn Rejection of Peace Efforts

JN2506062089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 25 Jun 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Lebanon's People Face the Truth," AL-BA'TH says in its editorial: A quick review of the recent past reveals simply and clearly the size of the conspiracy over Lebanon's Arab identity and unity.

The security explosion, which 'Awn began on the 14th of black March, was the start of another new stage of the continuing conspiracy—a stage characterized by violence, death, destruction, and further shedding of Lebanese blood. It was as though the general [Michel 'Awn] wants to silence every voice that opposes him.

AL-BA'TH continues: 'Awn has rejected the efforts of the tripartite committee in order to shatter the Arab solution, and along with it, the demands for reforms which could achieve justice and equality between the sons of the one nation. He attacked the political and spiritual leaderships, and before them, the entire Lebanese people through his anger over the deputies, threatening them with fire and iron. After all that, he brags of democracy and continues his conspiracy to the full.

AL-BA'TH wonders at the conclusion of its editorial: Will 'Awn and those behind him, whether Zionists or those providing him with weapons, attain their and his goals? The reality now lies fully and totally in the hands of the Lebanese people. We do not believe that after 'Awn's statement there is a solution other than overthrowing him, saving Lebanon from his destructive scheme, and thwarting the Zionist enemy's conspiracy over Lebanon. It is the duty of the nationalist forces, the Lebanese, and all those faithful to Arabism.

Afghanistan

Barialay Named First Deputy Prime Minister

LD2406165189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] In accordance with a proposal by the chairman of the executive committee of the Council of Ministers and the approval of esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, Muhammad Barialay has been appointed as first deputy prime minister and member of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Appointment Viewed

BK2506111889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1057 GMT 25 Jun 89

[By Kate Webb]

[Text] Kabul, June 25 (AFP)—Afghan President Najibullah has appointed the brother of his predecessor Babrak Karmal as first deputy prime minister, a move observers here say is intended to strengthen the unity of the ruling Communist Party.

The appointment of Muhammad Barialay, whose brother ruled Afghanistan from 1979 to 1986, was announced late Saturday by state television.

No reason was given for the appointment of Mr Barialay, thought to be around 45 years old, but the announcement said his name had been proposed by the Council of Ministers and the appointment approved by President Najibullah.

The announcement was greeted with surprise in some quarters here, where Mr Karmal, now in exile in the Soviet Union, is generally considered to be the man responsible for legitimising the Soviet troop invasion of 1979.

Mr Barialay, who under Mr Karmal held the post of director of foreign relations for the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), has for the past few years been a "non-person" and spent several months in jail, party and government sources said.

He had been rounded up along with other party hardliners opposed to Mr Najibullah's policy of national reconciliation with non-party Afghans late in 1988.

"Najibullah had to to it," a source close to the president said Sunday. "Without the party he is nothing and he needs the unity of the party."

The mujahidin resistance have been fighting the Soviet-backed government in Kabul for the past 10 years with support from Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the United States.

The Najibullah government maintains that negotiations towards an end to the protracted war, which has killed more than one million Afghans, can only be held between both the party and the mujahidin.

The mujahidin have demanded that Mr Najibullah and his party step down if a peaceful settlement is to be reached.

Among non-party members in Kabul, there was consternation.

"Does that mean Karmal is going to return from the Soviet Union," asked one businessman. "Is it a return to the hard line?"

Mr Karmal, a member of the PDPA's Parcham faction, was known to have jailed numerous members of the party's opposing Khaliq faction, which is prevalent in the Armed Forces.

One source close to the government said there was speculation that Mr Barialay would take up the position of "shadow foreign minister."

The source said there had been numerous rumours in Kabul in the past week that Mr Najibullah had fallen out with Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil, and noted that Mr Baryalai's background was in foreign affairs.

However it was unclear whether Mr Barialay would be given powers equal to those of Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, appointed head of the Supreme Council for the Defence of the Homeland in place of Prime Minister Hasan Sharq, who was dropped in a snap reshuffle immediately after the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan was completed on February 15.

Mr Keshtmand has been widely considered the de facto prime minister.

There are already three deputy prime ministers in the Najibullah government, but none has the rank of first deputy prime minister, which observers said could place Mr Barialay above the three and possibly on a par with Mr Keshtmand.

A state of emergency was declared when Mr Sharq was dropped, and the appointment of Mr Keshtmand was seen as strengthening the party at a time of the greatest threat from the mujahidin.

Senate President Mahmud Habibi said in an interview Sunday that Mr Najibullah "had to take the move" of appointing Mr Barialay.

"It was for the sake of party unity," Mr Habibi said, "and it could herald the rehabilitation of some other strong Karmalites."

"At this very delicate and complicated stage it is imperative for President Najibullah to strengthen the party. This is the first phase," he said, adding that "the policy of national reconciliation and negotiations will have to follow as a second stage."

Mr Habibi, who is not a party member but believes strongly that "Afghanistan must have the PDPA," said he did not believe Mr Barialay's appointment could be interpreted as a return to a hardline position.

"The only way for the party and all Afghans to go is towards negotiations, towards talks. War is no solution," he said.

Mr Habibi downplayed suggestions that non-party members who had hoped to take part in the government might now flee the country. Some may possibly leave, he said, "but only if they do not think."

"The party is committed to national reconciliation, but it must stand in a position of strength," he said.

He conceded that independent mujahidin commanders whom the government has been trying to woo with promises of semi-autonomy and assurances that they can keep their weapons might be put off by Mr Barialay's appointment. But he said in the end, the policy of national reconciliation was the only way.

U.S. Diplomat To Receive Visa for Visit

BK2606082689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1545 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] Kabul, June 25 (AFP)—The Afghan Government said Sunday it had authorised its embassy in New Delhi to issue a visa to a U.S. consular officer there to travel to Kabul to help negotiate the release of captured U.S. photographer Tony O'Brien.

Government spokesman Muhammad Nabi Amani said the visa request had been granted after the U.S. State Department made the request through the Afghan Embassy in Washington.

The U.S. Embassy in Kabul was closed for security reasons just before the completion of the Soviet troop pullout from Afghanistan in mid-February.

Mr O'Brien was captured by government troops while with mujahidin rebels outside Kabul on June 14, and is the first American journalist to be taken into custody by the government in Kabul during the decade-old Afghan war.

An Italian and a French journalist also captured under similar circumstances were given long prison sentences after being charged with espionage. The two were released only after high level intervention from their respective governments.

Mr Amani said Mr O'Brien was in good health, and reiterated that he was not being held in prison. He said investigations about his actions were still going on, but did not say where the photographer was being held.

'Abdul Wakil Meeting With Shevardnadze Viewed

LD2406192789 Kabul Domestic Service in Pastho 1530 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil, en route to the Netherlands to take part in a nonaligned conference on peace and international law, met Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Moscow yesterday. During this meeting both sides exchanged views in connection with the just solution of the situation in Afghanistan.

Both foreign ministers pointed out that Afghanistan's position, far from growing weaker, has strengthened, despite the fact that the limited contingent of Soviet troops withdrew over 4 months ago and massive opposition attacks—which enjoy great support from Pakistan, the United States, and a number of other countries, such as Saudi Arabia, contrary to the Geneva accords—have continued.

The successful defense of Jalalabad, Qandahar, and other regions has enhanced the prestige of the state inside the country as well as on the international level. Despite the continuation of the imposed war against Afghanistan, the national reconciliation policy is continuing with full strength under the leadershp of esteemed Najibullah, president of the country and general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee, aimed at ending war and bloodshed and ensuring a national compromise.

Both foreign ministers pointed out that despite the fact that Pakistani and U.S. military assistance to the opposition is continuing, there are indications that both countries have recognized that a military solution is not possible and there is no option but to accept a political solution. Afghanistan and the Soviet Union are ready for constructive talks and dialogue to end the bloodshed and achieve a mutual compromise at any time or any place. The only sensible condition for a mutual compromise is to take into account the objective situation in Afghanistan and include all the political forces in Afghanistan in the political dialogue.

Both sides expressed their view that the convening of an international conference with the particpation of the involved sides such as the Soviet Union, Pakistan, Iran, and other neighboring countries could be considered a major step toward resolving Afghanistan's issues based on the spirit of the 43rd General Session of the United Nations.

Both sides exchanged views on bilateral cooperation and other topics of international issues. The Soviet side expressed its readiness to continue to cooperate with Afghanistan to ensure peace and protect Afghanistan's

independence and liberty. 'Abdul Wakil said that Afghanistan's struggle to protect liberty, national independence, territorial integrity, and the right of self-determination is just.

Najibullah Congratulates PRC's Jiang Zemin

LD2506204189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA], has sent a message of congratulations to Beijing on the appointment of His Excellency Jiang Zemin as general secretary of the CPC Central Committee. Expressing congratulations on his excellency's appointment to this position, the message also expresses wishes for his further success in discharging his duties, ensuring China's prosperity and the further prosperity of its neighboring country, the PRC. [sentence as heard]

The message says that the PDPA wants friendly relations with the CPC for understanding, good-neighborly relations, cooperation, and friendship between the people of the two countries, in the interest of peace and security in the region.

Kabul Jets Strafe Mujahidin Near Jalalabad

BK2506134089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1323 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] Islamabad, June 25 (AFP)—Afghan Government air raids on mujahidin positions around eastern Jalalabad have killed and wounded at least 40 mujahidin and civilians in the past week, resistance sources said Sunday.

The sources said the intensified attacks using mostly cluster bombs was part of an Afghan Government campaign to "demoralize" the guerrillas and force them to call off their long-running offensive to capture the strategic garrison city.

Raids on Tuesday and Wednesday destroyed at least three mujahidin vehicles in the suburbs near the Jalalabad Airport, killing and wounding more than 40 rebels, the sources said.

The sources said seven civilians, including women and children, were killed and several wounded when planes bombed Rodat District, south of Jalalabad, on Thursday.

An important guerrilla commander, Haji Mateen, of the Hezb-e Eslami faction was among those admitted to hospital, the sources said.

The Hezb-e Eslami faction is led by Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, the foreign affairs minister in the provisional mujahidin government.

The sources said Afghan planes were now carrying out low-altitude bombing as the mujahidin were facing a shortage of shoulder-carried anti-aircraft Stinger missiles. Helicopter gunships were also being used in attacks, they said.

In southern Qandahar Province the guerrillas killed 10[illegible] militiamen in two days of fighting this week, and also shot down an Afghan helicopter, the pro-resistance AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA) said. Six mujahidin were killed and nine wounded during the fighting, the agency said.

In northern Mazar-e-Sharif, mujahidin forces shot down a plane and destroyed four tanks and 17 vehicles Thursday, ANA said.

Rebel Attacks, Casualties Reported 26 Jun

BK2606084289 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say mujahidin attacked a military convoy of the Kabul regime near Herat city, killing two commanders and several troops. Seventy Kabul regime troops along with their arms joined the mujahidin during the operation. Mujahidin also attacked the military base of Aqchah in Balkh Province where 300 troops fled away leaving behind their arms and ammunition. Mujahidin also killed 92 militiamen of the Kabul regime along with their commander in Maywand District of Qandahar Province. Meanwhile, the Kabul regime fired a Scud missile on the village of Andarab Banow in Baghlan Province, killing 24 civilians.

India

'Terrorists' Kill 21, Wound 10 in Punjab

BK2506064089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] In Punjab, 21 persons were killed and 10 seriously injured in a terrorist attack in Moga city of Faridkot District this morning.

According to an official spokesman, some terrorists came in a van and opened indiscriminate fire at people gathered in a park. The terrorists, however, fled the scene when security forces rushed to the spot. While the jawans [soldiers] were busy in evacuating the casualties, two bombs exploded in the park. The spokesman said among the killed are one policeman and one home guard jawan. Another two policemen received serious injuries.

Senior police officials with reinforcements have reached the spot, and a massive manhunt has been launched for the culprits.

Death Toll 24; Politicians Cited

BK2606084589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Excerpts] In Punjab, 24 persons were killed and 10 seriously injured in a terrorist attack in Moga town of Faridkot District this morning. While 21 died on the spot, three succumbed to their injuries in the hospital. [passage omitted]

Several political leaders have condemned the dastardly act. Expressing shock over the incident, the union home minister, Mr Buta Singh, described it as a serious attempt by the terrorists to flare up tension on communal lines in the state. He reiterated government's determination to defeat the designs of the terrorists. The minister appealed to the members of all communities to maintain peace and thwart the terrorists' design.

The Punjab governor, Mr S.S. Ray, has condemned the killings of innocent persons. He described it as a nefarious attempt to disrupt the cordial relations between the various communities in the state. Mr Ray asked the state police to capture the culprits responsible for these killings, whether dead or alive, within a week.

Our Chandigarh correspondent reports that the governor, along with senior civil and police officials, is now in Moga to assess the situation.

The Congress-I general secretary, Mr K.N. Singh, has said that the inhuman act of the terrorists shows their desperation after being isolated in Punjab. The former Punjab chief minister and Akali Dal-Longowal leader, Mr S.S. Barnala, has said such incidents do not befit anyone. The pradesh [state] Congress-I president, Mr Beant Singh, has also condemned the killings.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, described the incident as a preplanned one to disrupt communal amity. He said the motive of the terrorists was to demoralize those who had stood firmly against secessionist forces. In a statement in New Delhi today, he said it is unfortunate that the terrorists still have the capability to strike at any place and time of their choice.

Security Forces on Alert

BK2606031689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Text] Security forces in Punjab have continued raids at suspected hideouts of terrorists all over the state to nab the culprits responsible for yesterday's killings in Moga. Twenty-four persons were gunned down by terrorists in indiscriminate shooting in a park in the town.

The state police chief told our Chandigarh correspondent a short while ago that security forces have been put on maximum alert.

The Punjab governor, Mr S.S. Ray, is camping in Moga.

The situation in the town is stated to be peaceful. The curfew imposed yesterday has been lifted. The state governor has asked the Punjab police to capture the culprits responsible for the killings, dead or alive, within a week.

The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, reviewed the situation arising out of the incident with the state governor and the director general of police in Moga late last evening. The home minister told our Moga correspondent that the Punjab governor has been asked to take all possible steps to apprehend the culprits.

Meanwhile, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] is observing a bundh [strike] today in Punjab and the union territory of Chandigarh to protest against the Moga killings. The party leaders have, however, appealed to the people to remain peaceful to maintain communal harmony at any cost despite provocations. The rail and road traffic in Punjab and Chandigarh are operating as normal.

Killings Protested, Condemned

BK2606091389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Text] A bundh [strike] is being observed in Punjab and Chandigarh today in protest against yesterday's killings by terrorists at Moga. Shops and commercial establishments are closed at most places. Public transport vehicles are, however, plying with very few passengers. Banks are open, but attendance is thin.

An official spokesman said in Chandigarh that the situation in Punjab is peaceful. He said intensive patrolling is on, especially near vital installations.

Moga town is still under curfew for the 2d day today. Bundh is also being observed in Jammu and Shimla. Leaders of various political parties in Shimla have appealed to the people to maintain communal harmony and isolate the terrorists.

The president, Mr R. Venkataraman, has expressed anguish over the brutal killing of innocent persons at Moga by terrorists. Conveying his condolences to the bereaved families, Mr Venkataraman said such acts of violence must be condemned in the strongest terms by every citizen of the country.

The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] has also condemned the killings. In a press release in New Delhi today, the Politburo of the party described the killings as dastardly and said the attack was designed to disrupt communal amity in Punjab.

Gandhi Criticizes U.S. Trade Sanctions

BK2406160289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] The prime minister has called upon the youths to fight against the new forms of economic exploitation which are raising their ugly heads all over the world. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was addressing the national festival of youths and students in New Delhi this evening. The function is last in the series of preparations for India's participation in the world festival in Pyongyang from the 1st of next month.

Mr Gandhi referred to the U.S. action under the Omnibus Trade Act Super 301 and wondered why the Americans chose to act in such a manner when they have no problems regarding trade balance with India. He observed that the U.S. action indicates that India is being penalized for its independent and forceful stand against exploitation of all kinds. He said India and a few other countries are facing maximum pressure because of pursuing a policy of self-sufficiency. The prime minister reiterated that India will neither give up its stand nor depend on any military or economic bloc.

He regretted that though most of the world has by now come to accept India's consistent position on the need for peace and disarmament, economic tensions show no signs of easing up. Mr Rajiv Gandhi pointed out that India has been able to resist pressure only on the basis of its internal strength. The government, he said, is combining economic progress with political devolution so that there is no hitch in this system as it has been happening in some other countries. He made a special reference to the Jawahar Rozgar Yojna [rural employment plan] and the strengthening of the panchayati [village administration] system in this context.

Among others who spoke at the function were Mr Inderjit Gupta, Mr Somnath Chatterji, and Mr Subramianian Swamy—members of parliament, and Mr Mukul Vasnik, president of the Youth Congress-I. Several union ministers and members of parliament attended.

A delegation of 350 members representing sports, culture, and various political views will leave for Pyongyang in DRPK to take part in the world festival.

Defense Minister Departs for Visit to U.S.

BK2406034289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, left New Delhi for Washington early this morning on a 10-day visit to the United States. He is accompanied by a high-level defense delegation. Mr Pant will have wide-ranging discussions with the American defense secretary on global and regional security issues. He will also visit some U.S. defense establishments.

Contingency Plans To Rescue Diplomats Reported

BK2506135189 Hong Kong AFP in English 1339 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] New Delhi, June 25 (AFP)—India has planned an elaborate commando operation to rescue diplomats and their families in the event Sinhalese rebels attempt a siege of the Indian High Commission in Colombo, a newspaper reported Sunday.

India has also warned the Sri Lankan Government that it would not hesitate to launch a rescue mission if the need arises, THE TELEGRAPH said.

The action would be implemented only as a "last resort" in case the Colombo government allowed the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) to "harm or imprison" Indians, the respected daily said.

Intelligence reports have warned that the JVP was planning to surround the Indian High Commission and hold its staff hostage as Iranian militants did with U.S. diplomats in Tehran in 1979, THE TELEGRAPH said.

"There are reports that the JVP has already cast a net around a five-star hotel near the high commission where the families of the Indian officials are lodged," THE TELEGRAPH said.

Government officials were not available Sunday to comment on the report.

Three hundred paratroopers armed with rocket lauchers, machine guns and grenades would be airlifted by 24 Indian Air Force helicopters from Vavuniya in northern Sri Lanka and dropped in strategic points in Colombo, it said.

The commandos, trained to take up positions within 15 seconds of landing, would then go about rescuing High Commission staff and their families, the newspaper said quoting a highly-placed defence source.

"If the JVP tried anything funny, the commandos had been ordered to eliminate them even if it meant going after the Sinhala terrorists in the crowded streets of Colombo," it said.

Antonov-32 transport planes would, meanwhile, land at the old airport in southern Colombo with helicopter support to fly rescued High Commission staff and their families to India.

Indian troops would also land in the plantation areas on the central hills of Sri Lanka to prevent a Sinhalese backlash against minority Tamils, it said.

India has some 45,000 soldiers in Sri Lanka under a 1987 peace pact aimed at ending a Tamil separatist campaign in the island's north and east.

The Sri Lankan Government has asked India to pull out the troops by July 29, the second anniversary of the pact, but New Delhi has said it wanted the agreement to be implemented in full first.

Influx of Chakma Refugees Causing Concern

B:.2406113489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1124 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] New Delhi, June 24 (AFP)—The Indian Government was increasingly concerned by the continuing influx of Buddhist tribesmen fleeing Bangladesh into India's northeastern Tripura State, officials and newspapers said here Saturday.

New Delhi has asked Dhaka to grant safe passage back to the thousands of Chakma tribal refugees who fled Bangladesh's southeastern Chittagong region because of anti-Buddhist violence there by Moslem settlers, External Affairs Ministry officials here said.

The officials said India had also asked Dhaka to convince the Chakma refugees that they would not be harmed if they returned to their homes in Chittagong's district towns of Bandarban, Rangamati and Khagrachari.

"But the refugee problem continues to grow," a ministry official said, adding that the tribespeople were reluctant to return because they feared that Chittagong's Hill [Tracts] Council Elections on Sunday would be accompanied by large-scale bloodshed.

The INDIAN EXPRESS daily, quoting official sources, said that a fresh influx since mid-May of an estimated 15,000 Chakmas from Chittagong into Tripura, which borders Bangladesh, has triggered concern in New Delhi because the government feels that the exodus could ruin the Indian border state's fragile economy.

The fresh exodus from Chittagong to Tripura began after Moslem settlers in the rugged hill tracts hacked or speared to death scores of Chakmas, and burned several villages, in retaliation for the May 4 assassination of a prominent Moslem official by tribal insurgents of the outlawed Shanti Bahini, or Peace Force, in Rangamati.

The EXPRESS said the total number of Bangladeshi tribespeople in Tripura has now reached 58,000, adding that the state government, ruled by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party, had complained that the influx was straining the state's resources.

The state administration said in a recent letter to the federal government that Tripura was facing an acute shortage of medicine and that the refugees, who were satisfied with lower wages, were taking away local jobs, the daily said.

A senior official said in New Delhi that the federal government had spent more than eight million dollars [currency not further specified] on refugee welfare since the exodus from Chittagong began in 1986.

A senior Asian diplomat here said the Bangladeshi Government of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad had made several attempts in May and June to stem the exodus of the tribesman and to woo the Chakmas in India back home, but without success.

India's concern over the influx of refugees followed an appeal by Chakma refugee leaders in Tripura for international observers during the crucial hill polls, saying their presence would reassure tribal voters.

The refugee leaders have also rejected Mr. Ershad's offer to visit Chittagong to assess the law-and-order situation, demanding that the press be included in their delegation and that freedom of movement in the hill tracts be ensured.

So far, Dhaka has not accepted these demands, officials here said.

In April, Mr. Ershad announced elections to the three Chittagong districts to pave the way for peace. He also announced general amnesty to the outlawed Shanti Bahini and asked tribal refugees in India to return to participate as voters or candidates in the elections.

The Shanti Bahini, which has been waging a 14-year jungle war for a tribal homeland in Chittagong and for the expulsion of Bengali-speaking Muslim settlers, has rejected the amnesty offer and said the election does not have the mandate of the Chakmas, the area's original inhabitants.

Opposition Volunteers Protest 'Misuse' of Media

BK2606091689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Text] Volunteers of the Janata Dal and other constituents of the National Front [alliance of opposition parties] as well as of the two communist parties today held a demonstration at Patel Chowk in New Delhi in protest against what they called the misuse of the electronic media. The demonstrators courted arrest when prevented by the police from advancing further.

Reports of demonstrations have come in from other places also.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Returns From USSR 23 Jun

LD2306181189 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 23, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani arrived back in Tehran this evening after a 4-day visit to the Soviet Union.

On arrival, he was greeted by Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi, Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, High Presidential Advisor Mostafa Mir-Salim, several Majlis deputies and the commanders of the three Armed Forces.

The trip proved a landmark, and in a brief interview with reporters at Mehrabad International Airport, Rafsanjani termed it as "successful."

"Our negotiations spanned many fields including cooperation in the economic, commercial and cultural sectors as well as in the international arena," he said.

The Soviet Union, said the speaker "is very serious concerning implementation of the U.N. Resolution 598 and establishment of a just and durable peace and supports our stands in this regard."

On Afghanistan, he said the Soviet authorities "were opposed to any foreign interference in that country's affairs."

The negotiations, he added, also centered on issues of the Middle East region.

The Majlis speaker who is also the acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces noted the "warm and sincere welcome accorded to the Iranian delegation by the Soviet authorities."

"The enthusiasm shown by the Soviet people towards us, especially by the Muslims was beyond imagination. Such receptions in Moscow, Leningrad and particularly in Baku were very frank and sincere," he explained.

On his visit to Baku, the capital of Muslim-populated Soviet Azerbaijan, he said "the people welcomed the Iranian delegation as their dearest friends."

Slogans, uttered by Muslims who gathered at the Tazapir Mosque strikingly resembled those of Iranian people, he commented.

After joining them for the Friday prayer, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani addressed Baku Muslims and invited them to visit Iran for pilgrimage to Imam Reza's (pbuh) [Peace be upon him] shrine in Mashhad.

Like all other Muslims around the world, the Azerbaijanis have been deeply shocked at the passing away of Imam Khomeyni, and many of those who lined the streets to greet Rafsanjani were seen wearing black clothes, as a sign of mourning.

"Whenever the name of Imam Khomeyni was mentioned in the mosque, the people could hardly control their strong emotions which came as a surprise to both the Iranian delegation and the Soviet authorities," exclaimed the speaker.

"Obedience to Khamene'i is obedience to the imam" was another slogan chanted by Baku Muslim people, he asserted, which evoked memories of Iran.

The slogan has become common in Iran following the election of President Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i as the new leader of the Islamic Republic.

Azerbaijanis on both sides of the border have a close cultural, religious and historical affinity, and speak the same Turkic dialect Azeri, with a sprinkling of Persian.

Rafsanjani Interviewed

NC2406065689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Interview with 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Majlis and acting commander in chief, by correspondent Forughi, in Tehran on 23 June—recorded]

[Text] [Forughi] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, while welcoming you back, I request you—since you promised before your departure for the Soviet Union that you would make an assessment after your trip—to tell us how you evaluate this trip and how you view your visit.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At that time, we said we were hopeful that what had been planned could be achieved, but that we could not judge at that stage. However, now we can say that everything was in accordance with our expectations. Our judgement, and that of those who accompanied us, is absolutely positive. There were certain plans in our minds and we had made certain calculations. When we went there we felt, after two sessions of talks, that in all fields the Soviet Union was greeting the Islamic Republic with open arms, and that they understood us. Everything went ahead according to our hopes and wishes.

I would like to mention a point which was extremely interesting to me and which we were aware of (?frequently) during this trip. This was that they have comprehended the reality of the revolution and the nature and essence of our revolution and have adjusted themselves accordingly. They have definitely realized that the revolution is sincere when it says "neither East nor West" and is not prepared to depend on anyone or anything during its course. For the first time in the history of Iran, they had fully prepared themselves to encounter an Iran which is 100 percent independent and will not accept anything except what is in the interests of its ideology and people and of the country. This was the attitude with which they entered into dialogue with us, and whatever we had planned was approved and signed there.

[Forughi] Despite the fact that this visit was positive, the Western mass media seem to stress that we did not reach any consensus, especially on the issue of gas. What is your opinion in this regard?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] As I mentioned, we attained results in all areas. Regarding gas, what we wanted was that the quantity of gas we are able to export at all times—at present, when we have started, it is about 2 or 3 billion cubic meters annually... [Hashemi-Rafsanjani corrects himself] meters of gas every year, and it is possible it may reach 5 or 6 billion—they even agreed to whatever quantity is possible—an investment can be made and we should expand the export of our gas accordingly, and they are ready to accept this [sentence as heard]. We did not expect anything more than this, but they even agreed to allow the transit of our gas through their pipelines to other countries; that is, we can use their pipelines to convey gas to other countries. It is interesting that gas is the backing of the various agreements we made with them; that is, we are to draw from something which has not yet reached our foreign exchange reserves—that is, from gas—and which will come later. We are implementing plans on the basis of this backing, which are the most fundamental plans of the country.

Perhaps we do not have anything of greater priority in our plans than what was approved there. Another thing which is very important as well is that they accepted that credit to the sum of $2 billion should be made available during the course of the implementation of the plans. Whenever the $2 billion ceiling is exceeded, and the gas we give them is not enough, we will adjust the situation in another way.

What was very intersting to me—and it is right that I should thank the officials who took so much trouble in this connection—was that the government and the ministers individually performed their tasks so well that the arrangements they made for the trip were excellent. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the economics, industries, and other ministers all carried out their tasks very well and there were no ambiguities. We knew what we wanted and, when we entered into discussions, we were able to present all aspects of our views very clearly. The planning was so thorough that it proved very effective in the progress of our work.

[Forughi] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, you also signed a political communique and an economic protocol with the Soviet leader. Could you please give us some details in this regard?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Yes. We issued a communique, and when I was on the plane I saw that it had been published in the Soviet media and is called the communique of good-neighborliness. It elaborates all the principles governing our policy. Mr Gorbachev and I also signed a program of technical, scientific, cultural, and economic cooperation taking us up to the year 2000. It is a long-term program that was signed, incorporating all plans and (?projects). We also concurred in general on the political issues of the region and in partiuclar issues of mutual interest. These are of immense importance to them. There were other agreements on the ministerial level; that is, every minister signed an agreement in his respective field.

[Forughi] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, this is my last question, which is on the talks on the implementation of Resolution 598. In view of Mr Gorbachev's remarks in this regard, can anything new be anticipated in the trend of these talks?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] This was also discussed between us. Our opinion was completely in unison with that of the Soviet leaders on the point that the resolution should be implemented to the letter, 100 percent, and that the UN secretary general's plan should be the criterion for implementation. They considered our views totally logical and it was decided that they would muster all their resources to strive for the consolidation of this peace. We felt that they were earnestly desirous of peace. In general, they are apprehensive about instability in the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf. They consider the present situation between Iraq and us as grounds for the presence of the West, especially of the NATO forces. For them, the attainment of peace is a serious matter, for purposes of purging the area. We think that this is a good basis for the attainment of our objectives.

As regards Afghanistan, we were in complete agreement and we reiterated our usual stance that the people of Afghanistan should forge their own destiny. We felt sure that the Soviets do not wish to interfere again in Afghanistan and are prepared to cooperate in decisions made by the people. However, they strongly oppose foreign intervention in the fate of Afghanistan. We are also opposed to this. We agreed that the Afghan people's rights should not be jeopardized.

On other regional issues, such as Lebanon, there was no difference of opinion in our talks. I feel it is important and worth mentioning here that the sentiments of the Soviet people in relation to the Islamic revolution were most interesting for me and for all those accompanying me. They went far beyond our expectations. It was the Soviet officials who first confirmed this in practice. For the few days that we were there, the Kremlin mobilized all its facilities for the Islamic Republic of Iran. We had four or five prolonged sessions, which were really effective, with Mr Gorbachev himself and his associates. We did not have individual meetings. Whenever there was a meeting all the appropriate officials would gather and Mr Gorbachev would personally preside over the deliberations. At times it was official and at other times it was more informal so that the issues could be resolved more quickly.

The people displayed very warm feelings toward us. We did not get close to people in Moscow as we were busy. I went to Leningrad, which is a long way away from us—it is near the North Pole—and the people were very friendly toward us. The roads we traveled along were teeming with people who displayed such cordial feelings that we felt (?inadequate). We then went to Baku in Azerbaijan. What I saw there was similar to what we have in our cities. The people of Baku welcomed our delegation as they would welcome their dearest friends. The sentiments they displayed—the women we saw there were (?not without Islamic apparel) and we did not expect them to be like our womenfolk, but they were actually crying in the welcome ceremonies for us. They had waited on the streets for hours for us to come, even though it had not been officially announced. They had heard elsewhere, perhaps on our radio.

We went to offer prayers at the mosque. We had not announced that we would do so. They realized, however, that we would go to the mosque and it was so full that athe Soviet officials feared for our lives. The slogans they shouted and the emotions they displayed were just like those of our people. For example, they shouted: "Obedience to Khamene'i is obedience to the imam!" which is even new here in Iran. [Hashemi-Rafsanjani laughs].

The people expressed such warm feelings and the Soviet officials were quite amused as they looked on. The prime minister of Azerbaijan was with us and he really enjoyed the reception accorded to us by the people. He was very happy that they were behaving thus with his guests. In fact, the cordiality that the Soviet people displayed toward our delegation is laudable. It indicates that the revolution has forged its path in the world; that is, those who have no ulterior motives display a genuine respect for the revolution, and especially for the imam, who has emerged as the most revered personality on the surface of the earth in the hearts of the people. When I mentioned the imam's mausoleum, at the mosque, it was as if the mosque itself seemed to reverberate with the sound of the people crying. One of the most important desires of these people is to visit Iran. We told our consul, our embassy there that they should provide the facilities for the people to visit Iran.

[Forughi] Thank you very much.

'Text' of Joint Communique

LD2306120189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] At the end of the official visit to the USSR by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly and acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces, the two countries simultaneously issued a joint official communique in Tehran and Moscow today, which emphasized the great importance which the two countries attach to their comprehensive relations and to the holding of talks at the highest levels, and which announced the signing of the declaration on the principles of cooperation and friendly relations, and the long-term program of economic, commercial, scientific, and technical cooperation between Iran and the Soviet Union until the year 2000.

The text of the communique is as follows:

At the invitation of His Excellency Mr Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Soviet Supreme Soviet, His Excellency Mr Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly and acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, at the head of a high-ranking delegation, paid an official and friendly visit to the Soviet Union from 20 to 23 June 1989. During his stay in the USSR, His Excellency Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his delegation also visited Leningrad and Baku, in addition to Moscow, and inspected a number of scientific, cultural, and Islamic centers and organizations, as well as scientific installations.

Throughout the course of the visit, warm sentiments which were examples of the friendly sentiments and feelings of the Soviet people toward the Iranian people were expressed. In Moscow, several rounds of talks between His Excellency Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani and His Excellency Mr Gorbachev were held in an atmosphere of mutual understanding, and discussions were held regarding Iranian-Soviet relations, and regional and international issues of interest to both sides. Simultaneously, working discussions were conducted between other officials from the two countries.

Current relations between Iran and the Soviet Union and their future outlook on the basis of agreements which were reached between Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Mr Gorbachev were carefully studied in the course of discussions between the foreign ministers of the two countries, Mr Dr Velayati and Mr Shevardnadze.

During this visit, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Mr Gorbachev signed a declaration on the principles of friendly relations and cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and a long-term program for economic, commercial, scientific, and technical cooperations until the year 2000.

A commercial agreement and an agreement for the construction of a railway line were signed at the level of ministers from the two sides. These agreements were signed by Mr Mohammad Javad Iravani, minister of economic and finance, on behalf of Iran, and by Mr K. Katushev, minister of foreign economic relations, and Mr N.S. Konarev, minister of railways, on behalf of the Soviet Union.

Within the framework of this visit, a memorandum of understanding was also signed by the two sides on consular affairs.

The two sides believe that exchanges of views on Iranian-Soviet relations are useful and constructive and in the interests of the sovereignty and the wishes of the peoples of the two countries. These assist peace and stability in the region and in the world.

The two sides announced that the Islamic Republic of Iran and the USSR will expand their good-neighborly relations on the basis of equality, safeguarding complete independence, mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, noninterference in internal affairs, and promotion of mutual interests and the rejection of any kind of domination or subjection.

On the basis of these principles, the two sides will expand their long-term economic, scientific, technical, and commercial relations and other desired cooperation, especially issues connected with cooperation in the field of hygiene and the exchange of professors and students on a planned and committed basis.

The two sides agreed to make efforts to promote an understanding of the cultural and spiritual values of the two countries, and a better acquaintance of the Iranian and Soviet people, of their life, culture, religious beliefs, customs, and manners, through the exchange of scientific, cultural, and religious delegations and popular contacts.

The two sides agreed that the border between the two countries should be called a border of friendship and cooperation. The solution of disputes between Iran and Iraq were discussed in detail in the talks between Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Mr Gorbachev, and the two sides, while paying full attention to the course of the talks regarding total implementation of resolution 598, under the supervision and endeavors of the UN secretary general, called for the implementation of that resolution. In this connection, the two sides expressed their support for the four-point plan of the UN secretary general, dated 1 October 1988, for speeding up the implementation of resolution 598.

The two countries believe that the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean should be changed into a region of peace and stability, free from all weapons of genocide, including nuclear and chemical weapons; and that, initially, all foreign military fleets should leave the region, and that security and stability of the region should be provided by the littoral states.

Emphasizing the legitimate rights of the Afghan nation and that country's Islamic identity and history, the two sides agreed on safeguarding the territorial integrity and rights of the people of that country to determine their fate without foreign interference. The two sides also announced their support for an independent, nonaligned, and Islamic Afghanistan which has friendly relations with its neighbors.

While expressing their full support for the just struggles and the uprising of the Palestinian nation in the Palestinian territory, and while condemning all the oppressive measures against the Palestinian nation, the two sides support the achievement of their inalienable right to determine their fate.

While supporting the just struggles of the Lebanese nation for the immediate withdrawal of occupying forces from the south of that country, the two sides stress the need to safeguard the territorial integrity, independence, national sovereignty, and the enforcement of the political will of the Lebanese people.

While condemning apartheid and racism in all forms, the two sides support the struggles of the people of Namibia and South Africa to achieve independence and freedom, and stress the importance of the efforts of the United Nations Organization toward decolonization and the principles of the independence of Namibia.

The two sides agree that the Nonaligned Movement as an important factor in international politics should expand and continue its basic role and participation in the solution of international problems.

Iran and the Soviet Union call for the strengthening of the United Nations organization and its more active and more constructive role in international affairs and in solving regional disputes.

The two sides described as worrying the present economic situation existing in the world and, above all, the use of various levers of pressure against the developing countries. They stressed the need to eliminate any discriminatory action in international economic relations, to reduce the existing gap between the north and the south, and to prevent the use of commercial and economic levers of pressure, contrary to international norms, in the service of political aims.

Iran and the Soviet Union attach great importance to their all-around relations and to holding talks at the highest levels, and emphasize the need for their continuation in the future.

In this connection, while thanking for the sincere hospitality of the leadership and the people of the USSR, His Excellency Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani invited His Excellency Mr Gorbachev to pay an official visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Soviet side accepted the invitation with gratitude.

IRNA on Communique

LD2506151789 Tehran IRNA in English 1502 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 25, IRNA—The trip to Moscow by Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his talks with the general secretary of the

Communist Party Mikhail Gorbachev in the opinion of observers in Iran and the Soviet Union is a turning point in relations between the two countries.

After seeing off the Majlis speaker, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze quoted Gorbachev as saying that the visit to Moscow by the Iranian Majlis speaker will open a new chapter in relations between the two countries. He said also the Soviets maintain that the positive impacts of the visit would shortly be felt throughout the world.

The four-day visit led to the signing of a historical joint communique between the countries which reflects the outlooks of the two nations on various topics.

The communique emphasizes the need for steadily expanding bilateral relations and also expresses the views of the two countries on various other topics including the situation in Afghanistan, Lebanon, the UN Security Council Resolution 598 on the Iraq-Iran war, the Persian Gulf, the Indian Ocean and international relations.

The document says that Iran and the Soviet Union will expand their relations on the basis of respect to good neighborly relations and to the principles of equality and to the sovereignty of each other and each will remain committed to the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of the other country, and renounce all forms of domination by any nation over any other nation.

In view of the past history in relations between Iran and the Soviet Union which due to ideological differences and misinterpretation of Soviet policy-makers in Kremlin has frequently been marked by abrupt falls and rises, the joint communique augurs improvement and expansion of relations between the two countries.

The communique referring to the resolving of the eight year old conflict between Iran and Iraq upholds the UN Security Council Resolution 598 and the four-point plan of the UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on the basis of the 1975-Algiers agreement between Iran and Iraq.

The statement by the Soviet Ministry spokesman last month on the need for resolving Iraq-Iran differences on the basis of the 1975 agreement is proof of the insight of Soviet politicians.

The concern of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Soviet Union for assuring that their frontiers will be common borders for friendship and cooperation, as well as their concern for keeping the Indian Ocean a nuclear-free zone and a region clear of all large scale weapons including chemicals is another highlight of the joint communique.

The communique also stresses the need for the evacuation of foreign fleets from the Persian Gulf as a first step for ensuring peace and security in the region.

Iran and the Soviet Union have recognized the rights of the people of Afghanistan for self-determination and for safeguarding their historic identity and have voiced support for an independent, Islamic and non-aligned Afghanistan committed to good neighborly relations with her neighbors.

The common views between the two countries and the talks between the eight-party coalition of Afghan mujahidin in Tehran and the Seven-Party Alliance in Pakistan and their talks with the Soviet representatives in Tehran and Islamabad indicates a better outlook for resolving the situation in Afghanistan on the basis of the right of the Afghans for self-determination.

The visit to Pakistan by the Iranian foreign minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati immediately before his scheduled visit to Moscow accompanying the Majlis speaker, and his talks with his Pakistani counterpart Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and with mujahidin leaders is another indication of the conclusiveness of the Iran-Soviet communique.

The Soviet support for the just and legitimate struggle of the Palestinians in the occupied Palestine and its condemnation of all oppressive efforts against the Palestinians as reflected in the communique is perhaps the most express statement by the Soviets to date about the uprising in the occupied Palestine, and their most express support for the rights of the Palestinians for self-determination.

The communique also supports the struggle of the Lebanese and approves their demand for the immediate evacuation of all occupying forces from southern Lebanon and stresses the need for safeguarding the territorial integrity of Lebanon and recognizing thier sovereignty, and their right for self-determination.

The emphasis of the communique on the independence, national sovereignty, and the political preference of the people of Lebanon in the face of the current situation in that country and despite Michel 'Awn's denial of the demand of Lebanese Muslims and his refusal to yield to the demand of Muslims in that country is indication of the similarity of the outlooks of the two countries in relations with the situation in Lebanon.

The Iran-Soviet communique comdemns apartheid and racism in its various forms, exploitation of economy as a political leverage against developing countries by capitalist countries, and refers to the Non-Aligned Movement as an important entity in the international political scene. The two countries also call for strengthening of the United Nations and hope for a more responsible role by the organisation in solving international disputes.

In sum, as indicated in the joint communique, the triumph of the Islamic revolution in Iran on the one hand and the advent of a new political mentality in the Soviet Union on the other, has paved the way for a further strengthening of

relations based on mutual respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of each other and conceived with joint interest in mutual cooperation.

The closeness of the stands of the two countries, which in the words of Rafsanjani and Gorbachev transcends all previous expectations provides a unique background for mutual cooperation.

The two sides have also agreed to expand their cooperation in the various areas of trade, technology and industries and explore patterns for collaboration in those areas including peaceful use of the nuclear energy.

The Soviets have also agreed to bolster the military capacity of the Islamic Republic which is also reflected in the joint communique.

Economic Agreements Outlined

LD2406184689 Tehran IRNA in English 1815 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 24, IRNA—The agreements reached by Tehran and Moscow on economic and industrial cooperation are worth more than $6 billion, said the minister of economic and financial affairs today.

"8,000 megawatts of electricity will be added to the country's national network once two power stations in Esfahan and Ahvaz are developed and new power plants are set up," Mohammad Javad Iravani told a news conference here.

Iravani was part of a high ranking delegation led to Moscow by Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on a four day official visit. The delegation returned home Friday night.

The minister, terming energy field as the most important pivot of Tehran-Moscow economic cooperation, said the Islamic Republic would locate the sites of new power plants.

According to the agreements, the minister said, seven new dams will be jointly constructed on five rivers in various parts of the country.

Iran will start exporting up to 3 billion cubic meters of gas to the Soviet Union from the beginning of 1990, said Iravani, adding that the price of natural gas would be determined according to international base prices.

He cited Moscow's agreement to let Iranian natural gas travel to Europe through its gas pipelines as another achievement of the visit.

The minister said that attaining the nominal capacity of the Isfahan steel mill, 1.9 million tons a year, and increasing it up to four million tons was another agreement reached by the two sides in the field of industry.

Tehran and Moscow have also agreed on modernization of the Arak machine building complex and transfer of technological know-how for die casting, iron works and moulding industries as well as on cooperation in the fields of construction material and colored metals, he said.

Preliminary agreements on shipping in the Caspian Sea, increasing the number of Iranian ships and the travel of passenger and cargo ships to Europe via Soviet rivers were finalized during Rafsanjani's Moscow visit, Iravani said.

He termed a Tehran-Moscow agreement to implement the Tajan-Sarakhs Railways project and to extend it to Mashhad which would eventually link eastern Iran with the national railways network, as an "effective step" towards trade exchanges with the far east. (Tajan, Sarakhs and Mashhad are all located in Khorasan Province).

The minister said the project would have good economic impacts on eastern Iran, adding the agreements to electricy the Tehran-Qom, Bafq-Bandar-e 'Abbas and Tabriz-Tehran railways were also finalized by the two countries.

He said preparations have been made for mutual cooperation in agricultural field including transfer of technology for cultivation of cotton and wheat, and modernisation of agro-industrial plants in Iran.

Exchange of data on nuclear energy and its peaceful use, exchange of university professors and students, and the use of satellites for telecommunications constituted a wide range of mutual agreements on technical and scientific cooperation, Iravani said.

Other agreements were oil exploration in the Caspian Sea, geophysical cooperation and exchanage of meteorological and ecological data, the official said.

The cabinet passed a bill in its Saturday's session allowing the Caspian provinces of Mazandaran and Gilan to export non-oil goods each worth of $15 million a year to the Soviet Union, he said.

The minister pointed out "all agreements concluded between Iran and the Soviet Union are based on the principle of good neighbourly relations, mutual respect and non-interference in the internal affairs of each other."

He also said the signing of the agreements by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani indicated the two countries' determination to fully implement the plans.

Newspapers Comment on Visit

LD2406072289 Tehran IRNA in English 0710 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 24, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsajani's landmark four-day visit to the Soviet Union is a challenge to the West to revise its stance on Iran just as Moscow had, one daily paper said Saturday.

Another paper meanwhile predicted that politically the region would deeply transform to the detriment of the U.S. and its allies if the Soviet Union continued its new policy on Iran.

"Presently the superpower in the East has extended the hand of friendship and Iran has received it warmly in the extent of its independent Islamic policy," said the KEYHAN INTERNATIONAL.

But the paper's editorial believed this was only the beginning and that Iran would seek normal ties with states who truly respect its revolutionary and Islamic principles.

"The Majlis speaker's trip to Moscow also challenges the West to rethink its Iran policy," it said.

"The Soviet Union has done so belatedly and its leadership is now more than ever prepared to enthusiastically support, conceive and implement changes in the communist state's Iran policy."

On the same subject the Persian-language daily JOMHURI ISLAMI said Moscow remained committed to its new foreign policy on Iran, U.S. interests and those of its allies in the region would be further threatened.

"If the Soviet leadership's commitments in practice remain stable and unchangable (as the Islamic Republic) in the long term, there should be no doubt that fundamental changes in the right direction will take shape and the Middle East would witness U.S. interests and those of its followers threatened more than in the past."

The paper stressed that Rafsanjani's visit stemmed firstly from the power and stability of the Islamic Republic as a truly non-aligned country, and secondly from the changes in Soviet policy.

Soviets Understand 'Better'

LD2506071989 Tehran IRNA in English 0704 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 25, IRNA—A daily has called on all developed countries to cooperate with the Islamic Republic, like the Soviet Union "without imposing their political views."

The TEHRAN TIMES said "Iran's doors remain open," but suggested that unlike the East, the West had a smaller chance of getting in because it did not respect Iran's independence.

"(Iran) is in every respect flexible in its attitude to every country in the world irrespective of ideologies...with the notable exceptions, of course, of South Africa and Isreal," the paper said.

But as long as the West persisted in its "attitude of 'once a bad boy, always a bad boy,' it can never hope for expanded ties with the Islamic Republic."

"It will not be Iran's fault if relations continue to stay at the low level they are at present with countries who show more truculence than wisdom in relations with Iran," the English-language daily said.

"The West wants to, and hopes to mould this country in its own fashion, but the Soviets who have always sought to preserve their own ideological integrity are better equipped to understand the Iranian psyche," the paper's editorial noted.

"The West was given every chance by Iran to accept Iranian invitations to cooperate and help in this effort, but they failed more than once."

The paper did not deny that "Soviet technology may not be as superior" as the West's but on the other hand Soviet goods and services were priced lower.

U.S. Reaction Viewed

LD2506074589 Tehran IRNA in English 0715 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 25, IRNA—A Persian daily said Iran and the Soviet Union intended to prove that progress was possible without the West's involvement.

ABRAR said the basis on which Iran and the Soviet Union had agreed to expand their ties would undoubtedly overshadow international relations and show its effects in the region.

"The existence and prolongation of understanding between Tehran and Moscow and protecting it from the Western propoganda would humiliate United States and its allies," it said in its editorial Sunday.

The daily commented that U.S. reactions to Speaker Rafsanjani's Moscow visit showed that some powers including the U.S. wanted to question expansion of Irano-Soviet ties from its own viewpoint.

"The U.S. reaction towards possible sale of Soviet-made arms to Iran indicates U.S. failure to realize Iran's status in the international scene," it said.

In particulalr, ABRAR added, "Iran has not forgotten the bitter experience of dependency on Western arms during during the hard times of the Iraqi imposed war."

Musavi-Ardabili Gives Friday Prayer Sermons

LD2306180189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Simultaneously with the country-wide mourning ceremonies for the heart-rending demise of Imam Khomeyni, the great leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, the politico-religious rituals of the Friday prayers were held in various parts of the country with the full participation of the solid Muslim fellow countrymen.

The people of Tehran also held prayers at Tehran University and in its adjacent streets, under the leadership of Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili.

The president of the Supreme Juducial Council referred in the Friday prayers sermons to the unique and full participation of the various strata of people in the mourning ceremonies and the funeral of the pure body of Imam Khomeyni, the great leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said: Following the heartbreaking demise of the imam of ummah, may he be admitted to God's paradise, the unity, mobilization, awareness, and self-sacrifice of the people and the officials of the country brought such a blow to the enemies of Islam and the Islamic revolution that they comprehended that the Islamic revolution is too deep and great to be harmed by the demise of the great leader of the revolution. The world witnessed how the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran kept their unity and harmony and the experts of the nation [the Assembly of the Experts] also made the best choice about the most sensitive situation. They elected the leader of the Islamic revolution of Iran, an election that disturbed the enemies' sleep and intentions [Khab va Khial] and ruined their hollow hopes.

The president of the Supreme Judicial Council, referring to U.S. plots hatched against the Islamic Republic of Iran said: When the United States sees we are about to sign an economic and trade agreement, they threaten us that if this agreement is signed this and that will happen. But the United States should know that we have made a deal with almighty God to struggle for the establishment of justice, independence, freedom, and liberty and that as long as we live, we will struggle full force for the deprived and the oppressed and will remain the hard enemy of arrogance. With inspirations from the method and the path of the imam of the ummah, may he be admitted to God's paradise, we will stick to the path of independence, freedom, and the Islamic Republic. We will not stop until we bring Islam and the Koran to rule completely. As long as the world-devouring United States continues its crimes and does not change its path, we will remain its enemy.

Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, in another part of the sermons referring to the sensitivity of the fifth presidential elections taking place and the referendum for the Islamic Republic of Iran's Constitution said: The unity and the steadfastness of the nation has paved the way during various stages of the victory of the Islamic revolution. As the great, general march on al-Quds Day [the last Friday of Ramadan named by Khomeyni as the day of struggle for the freeing of the Jerusalem mosque from the Israeli occupation]—under the enemy's bombardments—resolved various problems, so did the participation by 10 million people of various strata in the mourning ceremonies and the funeral of the pure body of the imam, may he be admitted to God's paradise. Our problems were resolved the world over, disappointing the enemies of Islam and the Islamic revolution.

The president of the Supreme Judicial Council, mentioned that after 10 years of experience and testing in the implementation of the Constitution, there have been reviews of the Constitution as the imam ordered, by the persons chosen by the imam. He said: We should satisfy the imam's soul by being responsible and dutybound with the wide participation in the presidential elections and the referendum for the Constitution and follow the imam's path. We should be aware that the more votes for the president in the elections, the better the credibility of our president in the international societies. So we should ruin and destroy the enemies of Islam and the Islamic revolution conspiracies by means of wide participation in the presidential elections and the referendum for the Constitution.

Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili in this week's Tehran Friday prayer sermons referred to the anniversary martyrdom of Dr Mostafa Chamran and explained parts of the knowledge, wisdom, and spirituality of this dear martyr who played a great part in the victory of the Islamic revolution. He praised the valuable service by the brave commander of Islam, Dr Mostafa Chamran.

Khamene'i Speech to Clergy Reported

LD2506123789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Excerpts] Friday imams and clerics from Mazanderan Province, representatives of the Vali-e Faqih [Islamic juris consul] in that province, representatives from the Assembly of Experts and the Islamic Consultative Assembly from the same province, Sunni clerics from Dasht-e Gorgan, a number of seminarian clerics from Esfahan Province, selected representatives from Qom Seminary, Lebanese Shi'ite residents from Qom Seminary, clerics from the Afghan Islamic coalition, resident Iraqi 'ulema, the Supreme Assembly of Islamic Revolution in Iraq 'ulema, Afghan 'ulema and lecturers from Qom and Mashhad Seminaries, Molavi-Mansur, Qazi-Amin, Molavi-Mo'azan, as well as a number of clerics and various strata from Abadeh, in a meeting with His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i this morning pledged their allegiance to the great leader. [passage omitted]

According to a Central News Unit report, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI), delivered a speech to the clerics in which he said: You are the teachers of the ummah and the vanguard toward sublime Islamic aspiration, and more than anyone else you deserve our condolences for this great calamity.

The IRI leader graciously added: The Islamic revolution of Iran which is based on the pure Mohammaden Islam, can not be exclusive to specific boundaries, nations, or tribes. When a divine concept, a new insight, and a correct Islamic perception is conveyed to a group of Muslims, it will naturally spread over the entire atmosphere of the Islamic world, and the Muslims will benefit by it according to their capacity and situation.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i graciously reiterated: When we speak of Islamic aspirations, we speak to the entire Muslim world, and when we speak of the fight against global arrogance, we speak to the entire world oppressors. This is the nature of our revolution and its unalterable principle.

Regarding Islamic unity, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i graciously stated: We do not tell the various Islamic sects to abandon their particular beliefs, but we tell them that the Muslims' common denominators are more important and essential than the trivial matters which they do not have in common. Our enemies emphasize the disagreements, while we should emphasize the common denominators and not provide the enemy with any form of subterfuge.

The great leadership reiterated: The important and principle issue pertaining to clericalism from the scene, has constantly tried to either annihilate them, or, to divest them of their true identity, which means affiliating them to the tyrannical powers, or in another words—court clerics, as incessantly mentioned by our beloved imam in his speeches.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i added: Thanks be to God, the community of Islamic scholars and clerics in Iran raised the banner of unity and endeared Islam to the world. Today, the duty of the clerics is to maintain and boost this scholarly community's spiritual strength in all dimensions. The credibility of the clerics is one and the same as that of Islam, imam, and the revolution. Every religious scholar [alem] is a proof [hojjat] of Islam for friend and foe in his area. It is the duty of all the grand religious scholars throughout the country, to endeavor to strengthen the intellectual, moral, and educational capacity of every seminarian and clergy.

Ahmad Khomeyni Calls for National Unity

LD2506095889 Tehran IRNA in English 0930 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 25, IRNA—Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni Sunday once again called on Iranians to unite behind the country's leader and other officials stressing that "their path is the same as that of Imam Khomeyni."

The late imam's son also urged people to preserve their vigilance in safeguarding the achievements of the Islamic revolution.

Khomeyni said the world oppressed followed the Islamic Revolution of Iran as a model and Muslims in Pakistan, India, Afghanistan and the Persian Gulf states were impressed by it.

He made the remarks in a meeting with groups of visitors gathered at Jamaran mosque to express condolences on the passing away of the imam.

"You must move behind your officials. The world today wants to separate you from your leader (Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i) and the authorities," Khomeyni said.

He warned: "This means nothing but trampling on the blood of martyrs and wasting Imam Khomeyni's efforts."

Three weeks after the death the imam, large groups of mournners visit Jamaran every day to pay tribute to the late leader and vow to continue his path.

Pakistan

Yasir 'Arafat Arrives for 'Short Visit'

BK2406101089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, was accorded an enthusiastic welcome when he arrived in Islamabad this afternoon [24 June] on a short visit to Pakistan. The distinguished guest was welcomed at the airport by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Yasir 'Arafat will address the National Assembly at 1630 [1130 GMT] this afternoon. Radio Pakistan and Pakistan Television will broadcast and telecast his speech live from the National Assembly Hall.

Offers Initiative on Afghanistan

BK2406132489 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] The President of Palestine and PLO Chairman Mr Yasir 'Arafat this afternoon addressed a special session of National Assembly in Islamabad. During his wide-ranging speech, he touched on the Afghanistan problem, the liberation of Palestine, and relations between the people of Palestine and Pakistan.

Mr Yasir 'Arafat expressed his full support to all efforts directed at finding a negotiated peaceful settlement of the situation in Afghanistan and spelled out his own initiative in this regard. He said a peaceful settlement alone will enable the fraternal people of Afghanistan to achieve national conciliation, allowing them to achieve unity and territorial integrity, peace and stability in their country and in the whole area.

He said he had exchanged views about it with the president, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan; the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto; and the parties in the Afghan government. He had spelled out his initiative in this regard to all Afghan parties.

About Palestine, Mr 'Arafat declared that the Palestinians would continue their struggle despite all odds to carve out a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

In a vote of thanks, the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, paid glowing tributes to the Palestinian brethren and declared that their struggle was the struggle of every Muslim who believed in jihad [holy war]. She said Pakistan had always stood with the Palestinians in their struggle and shares their pain of exile far away from their homeland. She declared that Pakistan fully supports the bold initiative taken by Mr Yasir 'Arafat and the Palestine National Council for a just, comprehensive, and durable settlement of the conflict.

Earlier, President Yasir 'Arafat had a meeting with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad and discussed matters of bilateral interest.

Soon after his arrival, Mr Yasir 'Arafat had a meeting with the foreign minister of the Afghan interim government, Mr Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, at the Islamabad Airport. Later, talking to newsmen, Mr Hekmatyar said Mr 'Arafat had expressed his willingness to play a role in bringing about a solution of the Afghanistan problem. The final decision on his offer would be taken by the Afghan interim government.

More on Assembly Address

BK2406161589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Excerpt] President of Palestine and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has said only a peaceful settlement will enable the fraternal people of Afghanistan to achieve national reconciliation, allowing them to achieve unity, territorial integrity, and peace and stability in their country and in the whole region. Addressing a special session of the National Assembly in Islamabad this afternoon, he expressed his full support for all efforts dedicated to finding a negotiated peaceful settlement of the Afghanistan problem. He also spelled out his own initiatives in this regard. He said he has exchanged views on this issue with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, and the parties in the Afghan conflict. In this context, he has apprised all Afghan parties of his initiatives, which he has sincerely proposed to avoid bloodshed and which are in the interest of Afghanistan and its people so that Afghanistan may not be turned into another Lebanon.

Yasir 'Arafat said the Palestinian people support the Soviet decision regarding the withdrawal of its troops from Afghanistan.

Regarding the independence of Palestine, Yasir 'Arafat reaffirmed his stand for a negotiated solution of the problem that will end the Israeli domination over Arab territories and lead to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. In this context, he referred to the peace efforts of Arab countries, including their appeal for convening an international conference to establish peace in the Middle East with the participation on equal footing of all parties concerned and the PLO as a legitimate representative organization of the Palestinians.

The Palestinian president also spoke about about the liberation movement—the intifada—which the Palestinian people have launched against Israeli domination. He said that since the launching of the movement 19 months ago, 800 people have been martyred and more than 40,000 wounded, including 6,000 permanently crippled; he also pointed out that more than 50,000 people have been arrested and put in jails similar to the Nazi detention camps.

Yasir 'Arafat expressed the hope that the United States, which has started talks with PLO, will help to carry forward the process of peace and will not support the proposal for so-called elections in the occupied territories. He added that the Palestinians will accept UN-supervised elections only after the withdrawal of Israeli troops and as part of a comprehensive peace process.

Yasir 'Arafat expressed heartfelt thanks on behalf of the Palestinian people, the PLO, and himself to the government and people of Pakistan for their principled and absolute support to the sacred holy war. He spoke of the relations between the people of Palestine and Pakistan based on feelings of affection and brotherhood, and said they are bound together by common ties as members of the Islamic community. He recalled that martyr Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, the former prime minister of Pakistan, had further promoted these ties. He said: I congratulate the Pakistani prime minister on behalf of the Palestinian people for the overwhelming vote of confidence she received from the Pakistani people during the democratic process. He said: You really deserve your people's confidence. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan was also present during 'Arafat's address. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Departs 24 June

BK2506013489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0100 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] The president of the Palestinian State, Yasir 'Arafat, left Islamabad last night after his brief visit to Pakistan. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto bade him farewell at the airport. The Punjab governor, representatives of the three armed services, the National Assembly deputy speaker, federal ministers, members of Parliament, diplomatic representatives, and senior officers were also present on the occasion.

Before boarding the aircraft, the Palestinian president was presented with an album of pictures of his visit.

Earlier, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto held talks in Rawalpindi in the evening and exchanged views on matters of mutual interest and on bilateral issues. Yasir 'Arafat apprised the prime minister of the latest situation in the Middle East and the situation in Palestine. They also discussed the Afghanistan issue and possible steps for a comprehensive political settlement.

Senior Federal Minister Begum Nusrat Bhutto; (Iqbal Ahasan), adviser on national security and foreign affairs; Major General Nasirullah Babar, retired, special assistant to the prime minister; and senior members of Yasir 'Arafat's delegation were also present on the occasion. Later, the prime minister hosted a dinner in honor of the president of the Palestinian State.

Mujahidin React 'Cautiously' to Proposal

BK2506130389 Hong Kong AFP in English 1248 GMT 25 Jun 89

[By Rene Slama]

[Text] Islamabad, June 25 (AFP)—Afghan resistance leaders have reacted cautiously to Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's offer to act as a mediator in bringing about a settlement of the Afghan conflict.

"We shall discuss this proposal in our next cabinet meeting and see if his mediation offer is acceptable," Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, minister of foreign affairs in the provisional mujahidin government, said after meeting the Palestinian leader at the airport here Saturday.

In a speech before the Pakistani Parliament here Saturday, Mr. 'Arafat said the PLO had put forward "our own initiative" to "all Afghan parties" aimed at finding a negotiated settlement to the conflict.

He said he wanted to help Afghanistan avoid becoming "another Lebanon."

The PLO chairman did not publicly release details of his initiative, but said he had exchanged "ideas" about the Afghan conflict with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Aides to Mr. Hikmatyar, leader of the Muslim fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami Party, said the meeting with Mr. Arafat was a "diplomatic gesture" but that his offer to serve as a mediator was not unanimously welcomed by the mujahidin.

Mr. Hikmatyar said he had noted during his talks with Mr. 'Arafat that there was "no question of negotiations or power-sharing with the communist Kabul regime."

He also said the Soviet Union must stop supplying weapons to the Kabul government of President Najibullah.

"If the Soviets can end their support to Tudeh (the Iranian Communist Party) why cannot the Soviets do the same in Afghanistan," Mr. Hikmatyar said.

Mr. 'Arafat's use of the phrase "national reconciliation" in his speech to parliament aroused suspicion among mujahidin leaders who pointed out that it is a favorite expression of Mr. Najibullah's propaganda campaign.

A previous meeting between Mr. 'Arafat and Afghan resistance leaders, in March, ended in an impasse.

The PLO leader failed to persuade the mujahidin to delegate 20 percent of the posts in their provisional government to members of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, the Communist Party in power in Kabul.

Observers here noted however that this visit by Mr. 'Arafat came amid a different diplomatic backround.

Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who supports the mujahidin, has insisted for several weeks on a "political solution" to the Afghan conflict.

And Iran, which supports the Shi'ite minority Afghan resistance factions based in Tehran, has also called for a settlement since the June 4 death of spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni.

Pakistani newspapers published the full text Sunday of the joint communique released at the end of last week's visit to Moscow by the Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Iranian Parliament.

Mojadeddi, Hikmatyar Cited

LD2506165989 Tehran IRNA in English 1608 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] Islamabad, June 25, IRNA—Mujahidin are successfully carrying on their struggle inside Afghanistan, said chief of the Peshawar-based 'seven-party Afghan alliance government' (SPAAG), today.

Back from a tour of liberated areas in Afghanistan, Sibghatullah Mojadeddi aired his views on the recent proposal of PLO's Yasir 'Arafat to mediate between the self-proclaimed SPAAG and the Soviet Union.

He said SPAAG has not yet discussed the proposal "but I don't think anybody would accept it."

However, another mujahidin leader, Gulbuddin Hikmatyar said after his Saturday's meeting with 'Arafat, who briefly visited Pakistan, that SPAAG would debate the proposal.

Hikmatyar who also met Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, and the Saudi Arabian ambassador to Pakistan separately yesterday, rejected any negotiations with the Kabul regime, but said talks with the Soviet Union is "possible."

SPAAG was set up last February after the Russian withdrawal, and groups Pashto-speaking tribes who compose a third of Afghanistan and have traditionally dominated that country since its emergence as an independent state on the ruins of Safavid and Moghul empires in the 18th century.

SPAAG has left out the other major Mujahidin group, the 8-party coalition based in Iran, which wants a truly popular government in Kabul representing all Afghan ethnic groups.

Hikmatyar Cited on Pakistani Support

BK2506031489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] The foreign minister of Afghanistan's interim government, Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, has said that there is no change in Pakistan's support for the struggle of the Afghan people. In an interview with a Federal German news agency, he expressed the hope that Pakistan will not make any proposal without consulting the mujahidin in connection with the solution to the Afghanistan issue.

Referring to the forthcoming talks between the United States and the Soviet Union on Afghanistan, Hikmatyar said the talks will not yield any effective result. He cautioned that any agreement between the superpowers on Afghanistan will be against the interests of the Afghan people. He said the United Nations can play a limited role for a peaceful solution to the Afghanistan issue.

15 Killed, Scores Burned in Gas Pipeline Blast

BK2406023689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] According to reports, about 15 people, including children, were burned to death and scores received burn injuries when a massive fire broke out following a blast in the main pipeline of Sue Gas on Band Road in Lahore last night. The fire was contained after 2 hours. Federal Petroleum and Natural Resources Minister Jahangir Badar has ordered an inquiry into the accident, and affected people are being provided [word indistinct] aid.

9 Killed, 4 Injured in Ordnance Factory Fire

BK2406093089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0900 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] The Pakistan Ordnance Factories [POF] Board has announced that a fire broke out in the Process Building of the POF at Hawelian at 0845 [0345 GMT] this morning [24 June]. As a result, nine people were killed and two seriously injured. The injured were immediately rushed to the Combined Military Hospital, Abbottabad. Two persons who were slightly injured were treated locally.

A high-level inquiry committee has been formed to ascertain the causes of this accident and the damages are being assessed.

Soon after receiving the news of the incident, Colonel Ghulam Sarwar Cheema, retired, minister of state for defense, accompanied by the acting chairman of the POF Board, Mohammad Nawaz Gul, and Corps Commander Lieutenant General Imranullah Khan, flew to Havelian by helicopter and inspected the site of the incident. The minister of defense has assured the POF administration that the next of kin of those killed and injured in the incident will be given adequate compensation.

Sabotage Ruled Out

BK2506143289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] Colonel Ghulam Sarwar Cheema, retired, minister of state for defense, has categorically ruled out the possibility of sabotage or subversion in the case of the fire at the Havelian ordnance factory. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, he said that the incident took place during the mixing of explosives. He said that an investigation into the incident has already been ordered and the Pakistan People's Party government will not conceal anything from the people. The minister of state, who also visited the site, announced compensation of 100,000 rupees for the bereaved family of each of those killed.

'Hundreds' of Remote Control Bombs Found on Bus

BK2506070689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1654 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Excerpts] Islamabad, June 24 (AFP)—Police said they found Saturday [24 June] hundreds of remote control bombs and detonators on a passenger bus following a series of suspicious fires which have left 30 people dead throughout Pakistan in the past 24 hours.

Following a tip off, they set up a checkpoint in North West Frontier Province and found 865 remote control bombs and around 500 detonators after searching a bus bound for Punjab Province, they said.

They added the bombs were smuggled in from the Pakistani-administered tribal territory which separates Pakistan and Afghanistan and that they had arrested a tribesman named Javed Shah.

Islamabad has blamed past bomb attacks on agents of the Kabul regime.

The recovery followed a series of fires and explosions which occurred within a span of 10 hours in three Pakistani cities: Lahore, Rawalpindi and Havelian. [passage omitted]

In Lahore, at least 18 people have died from a massive fire caused by a pipeline explosion which a minister said was an act of sabotage against Pakistan's ruling party. [passage omitted]

Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Jahangir Badar said the explosion of the natural gas pipe was the result of "a sabotage perpetrated to damage the image of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) government."

Lahore is the provincial capital of Punjab Province, ruled by the conservative opposition Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) led by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's main rival, Nawaz Sharif.

The explosion in Lahore followed a fire at the Chaklala Air Force Base in Rawalpindi caused when an oil tanker caught on fire, fire-brigade officials in Islamabad said.

An airman was killed and another was admitted to hospital with burns, officials said.

The fire broke out when base staff were refuelling a C-130 aircraft, local newspapers said.

Air Force personnel managed to remove the plane from the spot, but the oil tanker was destroyed in the fire, the sources said.

The series of explosions followed a lull of several months in bomb blasts which have claimed scores of lives in the past few years.

Scientist Denies Intention To Build Bomb

BK2306161889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1603 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Islamabad, June 23 (AFP)—Pakistan has no desire to develop or acquire nuclear weapons, Munir Ahmed Khan, chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, said Friday.

Mr Khan said that the main objective of Pakistan's "peaceful" nuclear programme was to utilise nuclear technology for scientific, industrial and economic development, the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN reported.

"We strictly believe in elimination of all existing nuclear weapons on the world forum to minimize a nuclear threat to world peace," he said.

Mr Khan, speaking at the concluding session of a physics seminar, said that "Pakistan has no intention to develop or acquire nuclear weapons as the prime minister, Benazir Bhutto, recently declared in Washington."

Ms Bhutto, during her visit to the United States this month, assured U.S. President George Bush that her country's nuclear programme was not aimed at producing an atomic bomb.

The assurance followed reports in the West that Pakistan was on the verge of detonating a bomb after indigenously developing the capability.

Sri Lanka

Premadasa Reiterates Call for IPKF Withdrawal

End-of-July Deadline Noted

BK2306152689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1512 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Excerpts] Colombo, June 23 (AFP)—President Ranasinghe Premadasa warned Friday that he would order Indian troops in Sri Lanka confined to barracks if New Delhi failed to meet his end-of-July deadline for their withdrawal.

"If India says that it cannot withdraw the 45,000 men before the end of July I order them to confine themselves to barracks," Mr Premadasa said in a speech in Mahiyangana in Central Badulla District.

"After the end of July they have no business whatsover in even an inch of land of my country," he said after inaugurating an exhibition on village development. [passage omitted]

Mr Premadasa rejected Mr Gandhi's suggestion for consultations on the troop withdrawal and asked: "What consultations?"

He said New Delhi knew well that he wanted Indian troops to leave since he had made it clear in his election manifesto. The accord under which the troops came to Sri Lanka was signed by his predecessor Junius Jayewardene.

"There is no question of prior consultations," Mr Premadasa said.

Mr Premadasa said he would ensure that there was "absolute peace" after the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) leaves the north and east.

He said he had seen newspaper reports which had quoted the Indian premier as having said that he resented any country dictating terms to India.

"I am very happy Mr Gandhi said this. The people of Sri Lanka will resent any country dictating terms on how to run their own affairs.

"Mr Gandhi and I have taken identical stand on other countries interfering in our country's affairs," he said.

He said if the Indian troops continued to stay in Sri Lanka against the people's wishes the entire world would say "it is an occupation army."

He referred to the government's on-going peace talks with the leading Tamil seperatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), and said: "They have told us that it was India which gave them training, arms and funds."

"We had our differences and conflict among ourselves. This was for the benefit of the outside forces which came and trampled us," he said.

The LTTE has been carrying out a bloody bush war against the Indian troops after repudiating the Indo-Sri Lankan peace pact.

Rallies, Strikes Reported

BK2306163789 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] The Sri Lankan president, Mr Premadasa, has reiterated his demand that the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] should be withdrawn from the island by the end of July. According to news agency, Mr Premadasa made this remark today in a speech in Mahiyangana in Central Badulla District. The Sri Lankan president said his election manifesto had made it clear that he wanted the IPKF to leave.

Meanwhile, a massive rally was organized today in the headquarters of the Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka, Trincomalee, to protest against the Sri Lankan president's demand. The leaders of three prominent Tamil groups—EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front], ENDLF [Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front] and TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization] participated in the rally apart from the public.

Meanwhile, security forces in the island have used emergency powers for the first time after it was reimposed on Tuesday. They have detained more than 60 people in central and southern parts of the island. Officials say those detained belong to left-wing rebel groups. The government has warned that armed forces will deal firmly with the rebels trying to disrupt the central services.

The 3-day-old emergency seems to have little impact on the continuing bus strike. Life remains paralyzed in most parts of the island, although a few private buses started plying in Colombo today. Train services were also down to a bare minimum with drivers and railway officials demanding protection from state security forces. The Sri Lankan Government has issued an ultimatum to the striking workers to return to their jobs by Monday or face dismissal. Reports say more workers went on strike today in support of the striking busmen. Staff of the government's telecommunication department and some city branches of private and public sector banks stayed away from work disrupting domestic and international telephone and telex services.

More on Premadasa Call

BK2406113189 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] President Premadasa has emphasized that India should call back the Indian Peacekeeping Force [IPKF] before the end of the next month. If it is not possible to call back all the troops, the president stressed that they should be confined to barracks. Thereafter, the IPKF will not be provided an opportunity to administer any area of the country. The president also emphasized that peace would be reestablished in the north and the east once these forces are withdrawn.

Addressing a rally after the inaugurations of 11th gramo dava [village development] exhibition at Mahiyangana yesterday, Mr Premadasa pointed out that the crisis which had been limited to the north and the east spread throughout the country on the arrival of the IPKF after signing of the India-Sri Lanka accord in 1987. The IPKF should be withdrawn soon to further strengthen relations between India and Sri Lanka. The president noted that the problems in the north and the east could be resolved through discussions. The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] has said that the president was able to achieve overnight [through negotiations] what had not been achieved during the last 4 years militarily.

The president stressed that without being criticized by other countries in the world, India should withdraw its troops. The president said his election manifesto had made it clear that he wanted the Indian troops to leave as soon as he assumed office. It was also mentioned in the manifesto that Sri Lanka would enter into a friendship treaty, similar to the one between India and the Soviet Union. Some had said that there was no use of independence if the IPKF was not withdrawn. The president said that he too accepted this idea. The main reason for the arrival of the IPKF was that we were unable to solve our problems mutually through discussions.

Mr Premadasa explained that it would be difficult to pave the way for the systematic withdrawal of the IPKF if there was confusion within the country. If the people honestly thought of sending back the Indian troops and bringing down the cost of living, all of them should extend their wholehearted cooperation to the programs being implemented by the government. The president pointed out that if he was given 2 years devoid of strikes and death threats, he would increase production in the country and bring down the cost of living. He recalled how he lifted the state of emergency after several years, and how about 7,800 persons were released without preconditions. Action was being taken to reopen schools and the universities. However, he pointed out that he lifted emergency in spite of the opposition.

'Confrontation' Looming

BK2506082289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0804 GMT 25 Jun 89

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[Text] Colombo, June 25 (AFP)—Indian troops renewed attacks against Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil rebels, officials said Sunday, as Colombo and New Delhi headed for a confrontation over the Indian military presence on the island republic.

Soldiers in full combat dress fought with activists of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in five different incidents in Northeastern Province Saturday, leaving 10 rebels and three Indians dead, an official said here.

According to Indian officials the latest clashes raised the LTTE losses to 52 since Monday while five Indian soldiers have also died.

The renewed attacks came as Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa Friday ordered the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) troops to barracks if they refused to leave Sri Lanka by the end of July.

Mr Premadasa, in an emotional speech on his 65th birthday Friday, repeated his demand for the IPKF pullout by July 29, the second anniversary of a peace pact between Colombo and New Delhi which brought Indian troops to Sri Lanka.

The president, who is an open critic of the July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord which sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign led by the LTTE, said in remarks intended for India: "Please leave our problems to ourselves. Take back your Army. Why do you want your people to get killed unnecessarily getting involved in our prblems."

He said if New Delhi maintained a military presence in Sri Lanka against the wishes of his people, then the IPKF would have to be described as a invasion army.

"If India says that it is difficult to find ships to take away 45,000 soldiers before the end of July, I would say whoever remained should be confined to barracks.

"I must categorically say that they have no business whatsoever to perform any administrative function in any part of my country," Mr Premadasa said in an explosive speech.

Mr Premadasa's hardhitting speech at a ceremony in central Mahiyangana town came after New Delhi virtually rejected his unilateral deadline to withdraw the IPKF and called for further consultations on the matter.

The main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party warned Mr Premadasa last week not to provoke India into a "confrontation situation" and said "military adventurism" on the part of India could not be ruled out.

The president has rejected consultations with New Delhi saying his mandate from the people of Sri Lanka at the December presidential election and the February general election was to get the IPKF out and India knew it.

A ministerial delegation is currently talking to Tamil Tiger political leaders in a bid to end the ethnic conflict and for the first time India, which acted as a mediator in the past, has been left out of the dialogue.

The LTTE has repeatedly offered to observe a cease-fire with Indian soldiers "if a definite time frame can be agreed upon for their withdrawal and provided that the IPKF ceases all hostilities" against them.

Mr Premadasa vowed to restore peace in the island's Tamil-populated northeast after the Indians go home and said the presence of the IPKF had been a hindrance to peace and also triggered unrest in the rest of the country.

"I would like to tell the Indian Government: If you gentlemen have a genuine wish to see peace re-established in Sri Lanka, please allow me to perform that task. Please take back the IPKF," he said.

Sinhalese militants of the Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) made the peace accord a platform for their anti-government activities and are continuing a violent campaign to seize power.

JVP posters and leaflets distributed clandestinely here Sunday have called for a general strike Monday and ordered factories and offices to be closed and transport off the streets, officials said.

They said the action appeared to be in sympathy with bus crews on strike since June 12 and to coincide with a government ultimatum to transport workers to return to work by Monday or lose their jobs.

In response to the bus strike, which paralysed offices, banks and schools in the capital and immediate suburbs, the government Tuesday reimposed a state of emergency giving sweeping powers to troops to arrest and detain suspects.

Foreign Minister and Junior Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne told Western correspondents here last week that the government will confront JVP rebels "head on" and deal with them in the "most ruthless manner."

Unlike the LTTE, the JVP has rejected offers by Mr Premadasa for peace talks to end political violence in Sri Lanka.

Indian Troops Intensify Action Against Rebels

BK2406145089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1443 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Excerpts] Colombo, June 24 (AFP)—Indian troops deployed in Sri Lanka killed 42 rebels of the leading Tamil separatist group this week, officials said Saturday, while the rebels repeated their call for a ceasefire.

It was the second call for a ceasefire that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) had made since Thursday.

Indian officials said the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) killed 42 LTTE rebels between Monday and Friday in stepped up operations in Sri Lanka's Tamil-populated northeast. Only two Indian soldiers had died, they said.

The intensification of operations followed the killing of 11 soldiers in a rebel ambush on June 14, they said.

The LTTE first offered to enter into a ceasefire agreement with the Indian troops on Thursday during ongoing peace talks with Colombo.

An official statement said the group was prepared for a ceasefire with the IPKF provided there was a definite time-frame for their withdrawal from the island.

The LTTE also wanted the Indian troops to halt all military operations against them, the release said. [passage omitted]

Security officials meanwhile said Sinhalese extremists continued their violent anti-government campaign, despite the imposition of emergency rule by Mr. Premadasa Tuesday.

They said rebels of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) ambushed an Army patrol late Friday and shot dead three soldiers and wounded three others in Kogalla in the Southern Province.

LTTE Considers Extension of Cease-Fire

BK2306112489 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] says that in the history of the Army confrontation between the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE, every cease-fire had failed because they were negotiated without the direct participation of the parties in conflict. At the talks with the ministerial delegation yesterday, (?the LTTE) representative pointed out that after the general election, Premadasa issued an open invitation to the LTTE for talks without any precondition. The cease-fire since the commencement of the talks is the longest successful one that has been observed since the beginning of the armed conflict between the LTTE and the Sri Lankan Armed Forces. Tracing the history of the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force], the LTTE has said that they came to Sri Lanka to monitor the cease-fire and then became involved in the continuous military confrontation with the LTTE. Therefore, with the present cease-fire, the president has enabled to achieve overnight what could not be achieved during the last 2 years militarily.

The LTTE delegation said it will (?surely) consider extending the cease-fire to the IPKF if a definite time frame is agreed upon for the withdrawal from the north and the east and provided that in the meantime the IPKF cease all armed hostilities against the LTTE. The LTTE reiterated that its main goal is to bring relief to the suffering masses in the north and the east and this could not be achieved with the presence of any alien force.

LTTE Wants Halt to IPKF Forced Conscription

BK2506112989 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] Talks between the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] delegations were held in Colombo yesterday. At the talks, the LTTE delegation reiterated its position that it is prepared to extend the cease-fire with the Indian Peacekeeping Force [IPKF] provided there was a definite time frame for the withdrawal of the IPKF and that the IPKF halts all military operations against them.

The LTTE delegation stressed that the time has come now for all communities in Sri Lanka to work out a fair and just settlement without outside interference.

They also alerted the attention of the government delegation to the dangers of forced conscription and said that it was taking place now in the north and east where young school boys are being taken to IPKF military camps for training. They said that this has caused tension, panic, and great concern to the people in those areas. If this move went unchecked, the LTTE delegation said, it will lead to the birth of another armed force, paving the way for further conflict. Furthermore, this move would distort and disrupt all the efforts of the government to bring peace and normalcy to the north and the east.

The Sri Lankan delegation said that this position is being examined by the government and that appropriate (?action) would be taken. They agreed with the LTTE delegation's position that this new development, if not corrected immediately, could open up new areas of conflict.

The government delegation at the talks was made up of Minister Shahul Hameed, Festus Perera, and A.R. Mansoor. The LTTE delegation comprised A.S. Balasingham, Parama Moorthi, Yogaratnam Yogi, Lawrence Tilaka, (Sanman Hassan), (Subhanyanand Karikulam), Panditharachalam Lawrence, and Abu Bakar Ibrahim.

Forum Set Up To Protect Tamil Interests
BK2506045089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front [EPRLF] has announced the formation of a Tamil forum to protect the interests of the Tamils. The leader of the EPRLF, Mr Padmanabha, said this at a rally in Trincomalee yesterday. He said that the forum will organize a number of rallies at different places to warn people of the dangerous consequences of [the Indian] PKF's [Peacekeeping Force's] pullout. Mr Padmanabha pointed out that the forum has the support of various Tamil organizations. It comprises EPRLF, ENDLF [Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front], and TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization], besides having the support of EROS [Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students].

The chief minister of the Northeastern Province, Mr Varadaraja Perumal, said at the rally that if the PKF is withdrawn, the Sri Lankan Government will be responsible for the resultant chaos. The rally was organized to protest against Mr Premadasa's statement on the withdrawal of PKF.

Addressing a function at the Mahiyangana town near Colombo yesterday, the Sri Lankan president repeated his demand that India should withdraw the PKF by the 29th of July. He said the PKF will not be permitted to operate after that. According to press reports, a Thai princess was the chief guest at the function.

Ruling Party Parliamentarian Killed by Rebels
BK2506145789 Hong Kong AFP in English 1409 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] Colombo, June 25 (AFP)—Sinhalese rebels assassinated a ruling party MP [member of parliament] Sunday ahead of a nationwide strike and curfews imposed by the anti-government militants, officials here said.

Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) militants stormed the office of United National Party (UNP) MP Anura Daniel, 34, in central Hewaheta town and opened fire with automatic weapons, killing him instantly, police said.

They said Mr. Daniel's bodyguard and driver were also killed in the attack which came a day ahead of a strike call issued by the JVP in sympathy with a work stoppage by bus crews demanding higher wages.

In posters and leaflets circulated here, the JVP said it had declared a one-day curfew Monday and urged people to observe it to express support for some 50,000 state-owned transport board employees on strike since June 12.

In another development, unidentified armed men in three unnumbered vehicles raided a Buddhist temple here Sunday and abducted five monks and 10 young men, student activists here said.

They claimed the abductors were from the military and took away the monks and the 10 borders from the temple because they suspected they had links with the JVP.

"We have reason to believe that the monks and the other 10 people, including a university student, might be torched [as received] and killed," a student activist said by telephone.

Faced with the bus strike which has crippled work in schools, offices and banks, the government declared a state of emergency Tuesday giving sweeping powers to security forces to arrest and detain suspects.

Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne, who is also junior defence minister, has said that security forces and police have been given "full powers" including indemnity against prosecution for their acts against anti-government rebels.

"After a lot of consideration and opportunity given to the terrorists (to talk to the government), we have decided to meet them head on. We have to deal with the terrorists in the most ruthless manner.

"Our people cannot live in fear forever. They must have peace if they are to survive... We have taken a hardline. There is no question about that. But if they (the JVP) want to they can still come and talk to the president," he told Western correspondents here last week.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa has repeatedly invited the JVP, which is waging a violent campaign against his government, to enter into a dialogue with him. The rebels have rejected his offers.

Premadasa Blames 'Foreign Power' for Unrest
BK2606102089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1009 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Text] Colombo, June 26 (AFP)—A strike called by anti-government Sinhalese militants crippled essential services here on Monday as Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa blamed an unnamed foreign power of instigating the unrest.

Mr. Premadasa appealed for peace in his Indian Ocean nation and urged people not to create chaos and hinder the withdrawal of Indian tr
populated northeast.

"There is a serious suspicion in the minds of most people that a few are creating chaos and unrest at the instigation and pressure from a foreign pow[illegible] local officials in central Mahiyangana town.

State radio quoted the president as saying that the objective of the current unrest was to perpetuate the Indian military presence in Sri Lanka.

He was speaking as the Sinhalese Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) staged a successful strike in the capital of Colombo, its immediate suburbs and several provincial regions.

Faced with unprecedented domestic crises, Mr. Premadasa declared emergency rule on June 20, giving sweeping powers to security forces to deal with anti-government militants.

The JVP, in posters and leaflets circulated clandestinely here, declared a one-day curfew and urged people to observe it strictly.

The militant JVP had warned those venturing out Monday that they faced the risk of being caught in bomb blasts or crossfire.

A police spokesman said three bombs were found in the capital early Monday but were defused without incident.

Officials said the JVP strike had successfully paralyzed essential services.

Shops and offices closed and people kept off the streets. A handful of government buses operated under tight military escort, but there were few passengers, witnesses said.

"Everything is closed. Streets are deserted except for an occassional cyclist, or a police or Army jeep passing through," a resident in Maharagama suburb said by telephone.

In downtown Colombo, all shops, banks, government offices and the Central Telegraph Office were closed as employees failed to show for work, officials said.

The JVP action, in defiance of the state of emergency, was aimed at expressing solidarity with bus crews who were continuing a work stoppage tha began June 12.

The JVP move also coincided with a government deadline for some 52,000 employees of the state run Central Transport Board to report for work or lose their jobs.

It was not immediately clear if authorities would carry out their threat to sack the strikers, who are demanding higher wages.

Reports from southern Galle District, a JVP stronghold, said life was almost normal in the coastal region and shops and offices were functioning.

"It is likely that people will close up early because of the strike in Colombo," a resident contacted by telephone said.

The JVP is violently opposed to the government and to a Indo-Sri Lankan peace accord under which New Delhi sent its Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) to the island's northeast.

The peace pact was signed in July 1987 between Mr. Premadasa's predecessor, Junius Jayewardene, and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi of India.

Mr. Premadasa, a critic of the accord, has ordered Indian troops to return to their barracks if they cannot meet his request to leave by the end of July.

In a direct reference to the rebels, Mr. Premadasa said that, "true patriots who want to see the IPKF sent back will not create chaos and violence in this critical moment."

In 1971, the JVP led a bloody insurrection which was put down with the loss of at least 10,000 lives.